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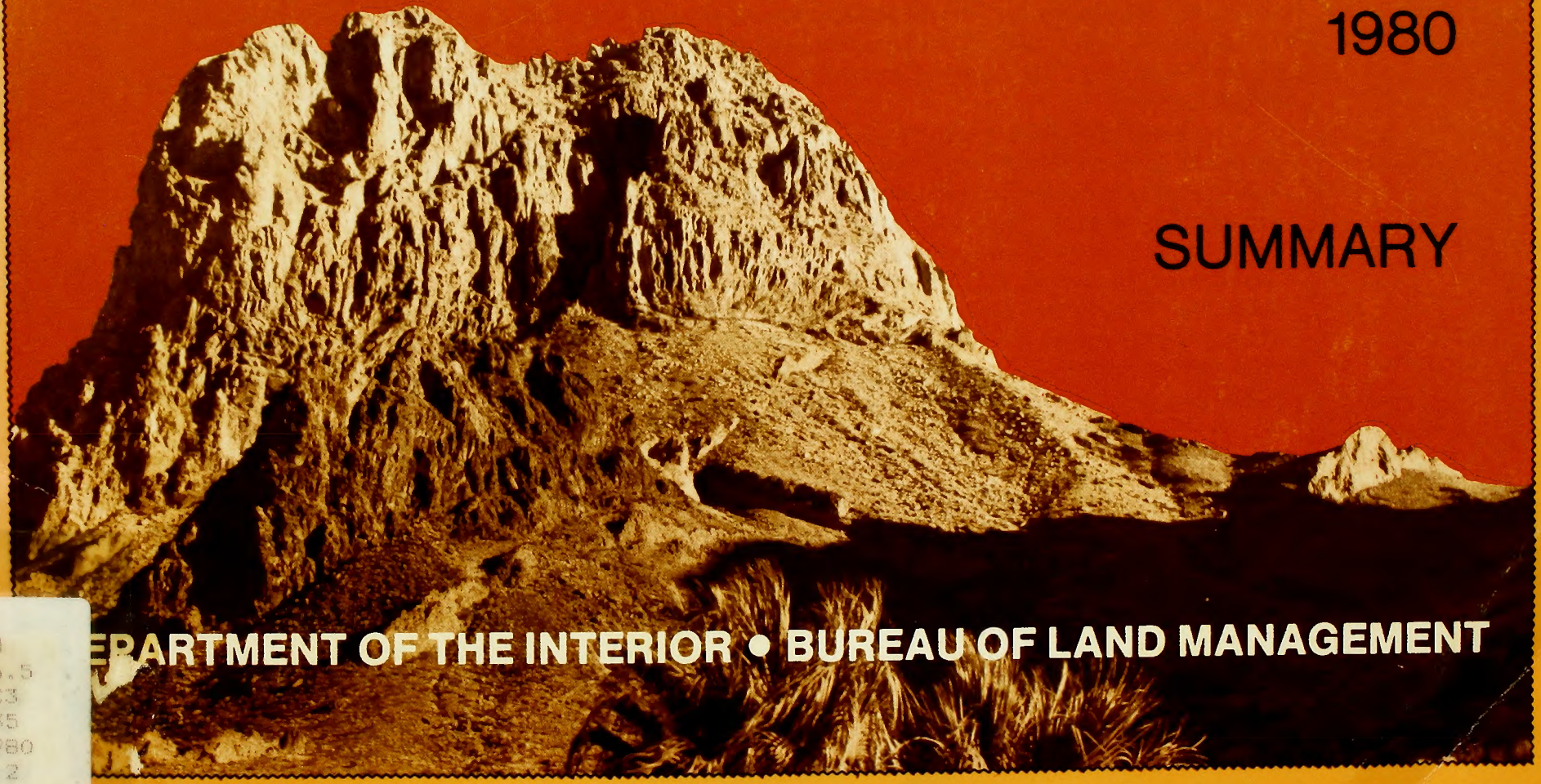
the California Desert

CONSERVATION AREA PLAN 1980

SUMMARY



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Dear Reader,

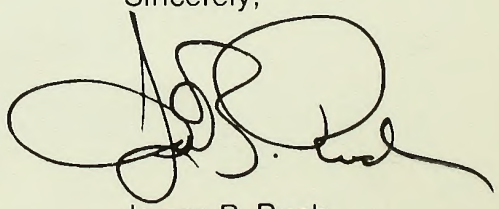
We have come to know that the California Desert is not the wasteland it was once believed to be. Behind its forbidding face we have found an abundant storehouse of resources that not only sustain and nourish our complex modern civilization, but also offer occasional escape from it, in vistas of liberating openness and contemplation of elegantly paced natural processes.

You who are reading this booklet may have been one of the many citizens who brought the need for careful management of this important natural resource into law, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Or you may have participated in often-spirited debates on the nature of this management. This booklet summarizes the fruit of these efforts: the California Desert Conservation Area Plan.

You should take pride in your work. It is a good plan. It is a fair balance between competing demands of today and, through the amendment process, it is adaptable to future needs. It ensures that the full array of desert resources will be available for these needs. It clarifies the vision of what we want and need the Desert to mean to us.

Above all, it is a pact between the Bureau of Land Management and the millions of people who own the public lands in the Desert. The Plan lays out many tasks to accomplish its high public goals and requires the commitment of time, energy, money, and understanding from all of us working together to do the job. The dedicated professional men and women of the Bureau of Land Management are committed to work for you and with you to secure for today and for the future the real public and personal values the Plan promises.

Sincerely,



James B. Ruch
California State Director
Bureau of Land Management

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Introduction

Section 601 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 formally recognizes the growing pressures which the urban areas of southern California were placing upon the vulnerable natural systems of the desert area of California. The Act created the 25-million-acre California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) and directed the Secretary of the Interior to ". . . prepare and implement a comprehensive, long-range plan for the management, use, development, and protection of the public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area."

The Act accelerated efforts already under way to inventory the resources and to plan for the management of the 12.1 million acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. A $6 million resource inventory program employed methods ranging from literature review and field research to satellite data sensing.

The California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee led a public forum to explore and discuss major issues of resource management and land use. Fourteen thousand written comments and public statements were provided in response to the Draft Plan Alternatives and EIS of February 1980 and the Proposed Plan and Final EIS of September 1980.

The Plan was signed by then Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus on December 19, 1980, and was reviewed and concurred in by the present Interior Secretary James Watt on April 2, 1981.

This booklet is a summary of the Plan. Like a desert vista, it provides the scope and broad outlines of many detailed features. The reader who wishes to pursue his interests beyond the major points highlighted in this summary may obtain a copy of the CDCA Plan by calling the Desert District Office in Riverside at (714) 787-1462, or by writing to the California Desert District Manager, 1695 Spruce Street, Riverside, California 92507.

New Challenges

Within the area we know as the California Desert, scientists recognize portions of three desert subprovinces: the Mojave, the Sonoran, and a small part of the Great Basin. Basically, subtropical high pressure belts, the "rainshadow" effect of the coastal mountain ranges, and other topographical features create conditions which geographers use to define a desert: an area in which evaporation and transpiration exceed the mean annual precipitation. Much of the California Desert receives less than 10 inches of rainfall annually, while potential for annual evaporation may be seven or eight feet. The Desert's lack of insulating humidity causes wide variations in daily temperatures; seasonal temperatures are also extreme.

This harsh climate imposes many constraints on natural processes. For example, desert soils, formed during the humid past, are often protected against erosional forces only by a natural soil crust, the "desert pavement," and what little stability a sparse vegetative cover provides. Any disturbance of these features exposes the thin desert soils to severe climatic factors.

Though considered a "flat, brown land" by the uninformed, the California Desert has an amazing variety of landforms, including valleys, bajadas, pediments, alluvial fans, rough-hewn mountain ranges, washes, sand dunes, and dry lakebeds. Encased within this tableau of many geological forms are abundant mineral values and energy resources, such as geothermal steam.

These varied landforms combine with differing soil conditions and climatic variations to form a number of desert ecosystems. Within these carefully balanced natural systems, desert plant and animal life fights to survive against formidable challenges, both natural and human.

Overcoming aridity is the desert organism's first task. Most desert plants are annuals which avoid the problem of water shortage by remaining as seeds until the Desert's sporadic rains bring them to life. During their short span of growth, annuals provide the famous, stunning displays of wildflowers that attract many spring visitors.

Facing the hostile environment more directly, desert perennials exhibit novel physiological and anatomical adaptations. Some have "dual" root systems: wide lateral roots to catch surface water and deep tap roots to search out underground moisture. Short-rooted succulents store water in their stems or leaves and ration it during dry spells. Plants like the drought-deciduous ocotillo shed their leaves entirely during these periods to reduce water loss through evaporation.

Some desert animals also display these special structural adaptations. The desert tortoise, for example, is able to store water in sacs under its shell. More often, however, the desert animal's adjustment is behavioral; it limits activity to the coolness of night, dawn, or dusk. Plant and animal life is highly concentrated around seeps, springs, and other surface-water sources which, because they are rare, are extremely important to the Desert's carefully balanced ecosystems.

In this relationship between natural processes and landscape, the human presence is often significant. Man is not an alien in the natural environment. His structures and activities change, and become a part of, the system. As populations and economic activity expand, it is inevitable that natural settings and associated lifeforms will change. In the California Desert a pattern of human uses has evolved from a multitude of single-purpose ventures, which reflect western history as well as serve present needs. Continuing traditional uses such as mining intermingle with newly emerged activities such as widespread recreational use.

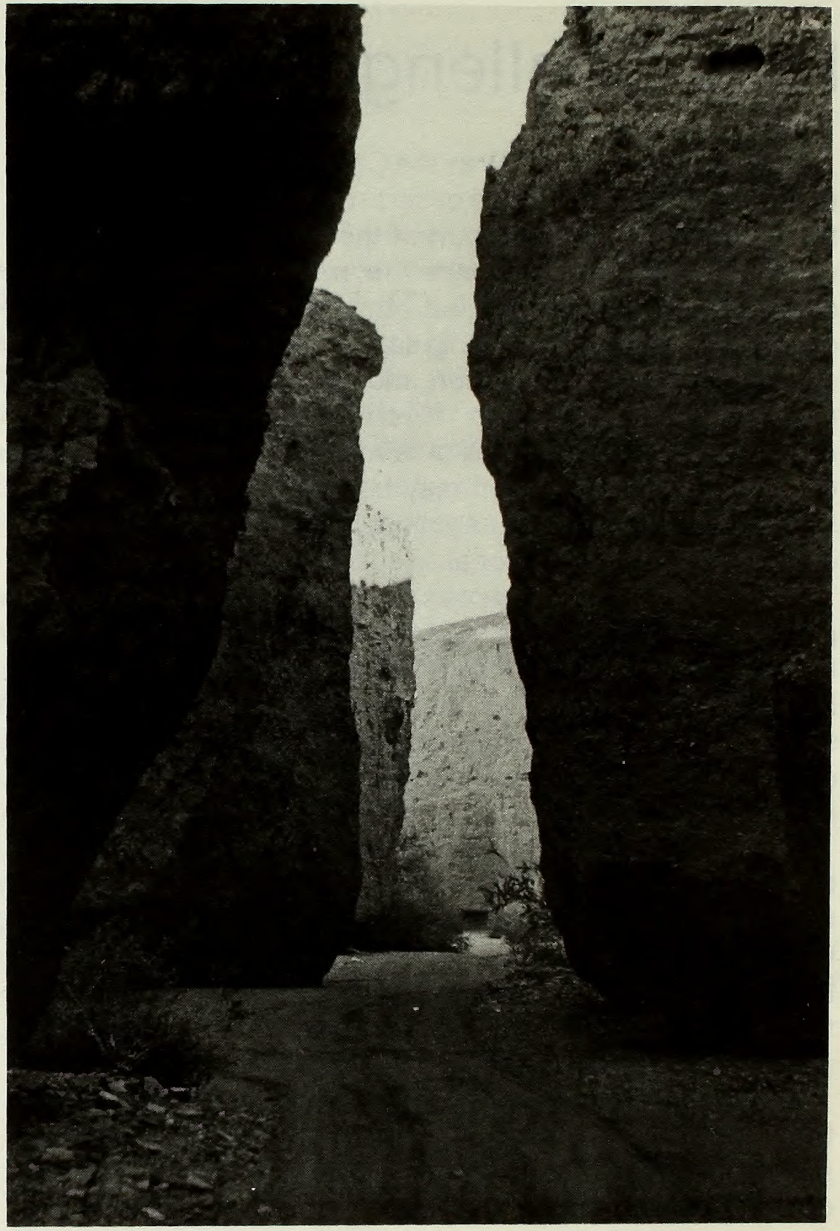
Although passive by today's standards, early Native Ameri-

cans wrought some changes in the landscape by creating permanent and seasonal village sites, mining and quarrying for common and exotic stones, flood-irrigating land for agriculture, and trading goods through an elaborate network of foot trails. This system of trails was of great interest to the Spanish, who considered the California Desert little more than a daunting obstacle over which they travelled between settlements in Mexico and coastal California. After the United States acquired the area in the mid-19th century, land-use intensity continually increased.

Initial tentative forays into the Desert by explorers and soldiers were followed by a growing stream of emigrants bound for coastal California, Washington treaty makers, and railroad surveyors. Fanning out from trail outposts and military forts, miners began creating the colorful desert settlements that went through boom-bust cycles until the end of the century. By the 1870s and the subduing of the native population, many of the major modern desert land uses had become entrenched in some form: livestock grazing, mining, military outposts, major transportation arteries, and the growth of permanent settlements.

After the turn of the century, the dominance of railroads, mining, and grazing was challenged when the construction of a canal from the Colorado River transformed De Anza's "Land of the Dead" into the lush Imperial Valley, now one of the most productive agricultural spots in the world. Anticipating its destiny as a major city, the City of Los Angeles brought water across more than 200 miles of the California Desert from the Owens Valley, an action which presaged a number of large water projects.

Between the two world wars, the freewheeling days of the prospector waned as corporate entities developed large operations. The reign of the railroads reached a national and local zenith and then faltered as automobile roads were laid



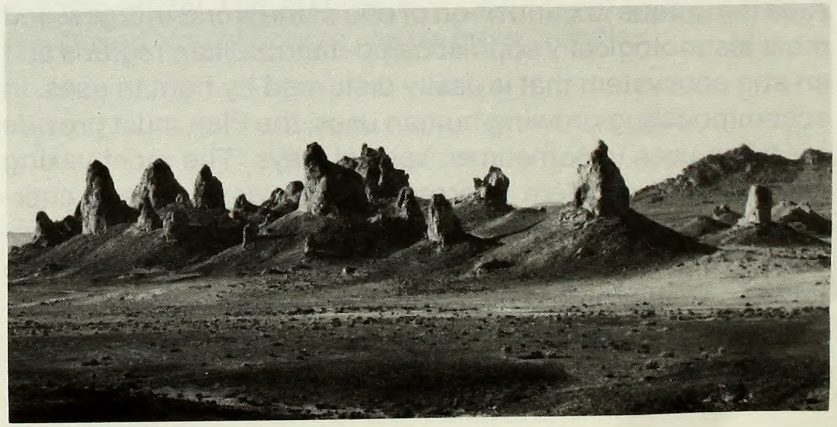
across the Desert. Highway settlements and resorts sprang up to serve automobile travelers, many of whom had been inspired by the authors who had begun to describe the Desert as a beautiful, delicate place. By the 1930s, this sentiment had evolved into actions which created the Desert's three large parks: Anza-Borrego State Park and Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Monuments. More water projects, notably the Colorado River Aqueduct, brought pumping stations and other support facilities. The first long, high-voltage power transmission lines also appeared about this time.

Beginning with Patton's wide-ranging expeditions in preparation for North African tank warfare, the military was attracted back to the Desert during World War II and remained to train troops and test a rapidly evolving weapons technology.

The modern character of the California Desert began to emerge immediately following the Second World War. In 1946, the Bureau of Land Management assumed the regulation of livestock grazing, which had begun after the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. The Bureau also administered such land disposal policies as the Small Tract Act of 1938, which allowed individuals to secure five-acre tracts for a very small fee. Attracted by this opportunity, other land deals, and the boon of such technology as air conditioning, refugees from coastal California's urban problems spilled over into the western fringes of the Desert in developments ranging from the closely spaced suburbia of Palm Springs to "jackrabbit homesteads," small shacks dispersed sparsely across hundreds of square miles. The war's legacy of four-wheel-drive vehicles and air-cooled engines allowed visitors to penetrate even the most remote regions of the Desert. This expanded access benefitted both traditional uses and rapidly increasing recreation-related uses.

Today the physical evidence that the Desert has evolved in human consciousness from a wasteland to an arena of resources much in demand is everywhere. There are over one-half million people living in 100 communities; mining developments ranging from large industrial operations to speculative digs; canal-fed agricultural valleys; nine military bases and testing grounds; 11 electrical power generating plants; 3,500 miles of high-capacity power transmission lines; 12,000 miles of oil and gas pipelines; and nearly 45,000 miles of vehicle routes of travel, ranging from dirt roads and washes to freeways.

As populations and affluence increased and technology intensified the impacts of individual uses, the public identified the need for an instrument by which citizens could agree to coordinate and balance the individual uses of the Desert's resources for the common good. Through the Congress, the public resolved this need into law in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. In establishing the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) and charging the Bureau of Land Management to seek the public's assistance in preparing and implementing a long-range comprehensive plan for the management, use, development, and protection of the Desert's public lands, the American people recognized that the modern challenge of Man in the Desert is not survival and conquest, but living in harmony with its unique principles.



Plan Goal

The goal of the plan is to provide for the use of the public lands and resources of the California Desert Convervation Area, including economic, scientific, educational, and recreational uses, in a manner which enhances wherever possible — and which does not diminish, on balance — the environmental, cultural, and aesthetic values of the Desert and its future productivity.

This goal is based upon a number of natural resource management principles and concepts defined by law. It is also based on the policy and advice of the California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

The Plan's foundation is the knowledge of the Desert's resources garnered from one of the most intensive scientific inventories ever undertaken. Plan decisions derive from the best available information about all of the Desert's resources, especially its soil, air, water, and minerals, the basic and finite things upon which all life depends. Since gaps exist in our knowledge of these resources, the Plan recognizes that actions and decisions must be altered as this knowledge expands.

The Plan recognizes in the California Desert Conservation Area the unique juxtaposition of one of the world's largest and most technologically sophisticated metropolitan regions and an arid ecosystem that is easily disturbed by human uses. In accommodating growing human uses, the Plan must provide for these uses in sometimes special ways. The most vexing management problem is preserving the desert user's cherished sense of freedom and solitude while preventing degradation of resources from unrestrained use. The solution to this and similar problems requires innovative approaches.

The Plan must combine the basic management principles of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976: **multiple use**, a striving to combine the varying uses of resources and lands in a way that will best serve human needs; **sustained yield**, the maintenance of high levels or regular periodic production from renewable resources; and **maintenance of environmental quality**, an understanding and fostering of the basic resources that sustain life. In addition, the Plan must weave together the skeins of a wider body of law, the sometimes conflicting mandates to protect natural and cultural values and the need to allow consumptive uses.

The Plan is based on a "good neighbor" concept, which requires that its actions treat considerately the needs, and assure the legal rights, of private landowners, military installations, Indian tribal groups and reservations, other Federal agencies, and city, county, and State governments.

The Plan recognizes that government by bureaucracy in a democratic society must be limited and that the responsibility for wise management of the Desert's resources must be shared by all citizens. The investment of Federal funds and personnel to protect the capital in public land resources and ensure their productivity and availability must be matched by a commitment from the people who benefit from these resources.

The Plan is a framework for a 20-year period of management, but many of its decisions consider the effects of our actions over a much longer period of time. It provides a balance and a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating its effects. Perhaps its greatest virtue is an amendment process which permits sound adjustments. The Plan's intent is that the uses of today do not preclude the users of tomorrow, and that we preserve and develop these assets wisely, with full regard for their economic, social, and environmental values.

How It Works

This long-range comprehensive Plan which has been prepared to fulfill Section 601 of FLPMA is the first of its kind. Based upon the planning and management principles set forth in this Act and the special nature of the Desert's resources and uses, the California Desert Conservation Area Plan has these basic features:

A plan for public lands. There are 25 million acres in the California Desert Conservation Area, including private and State-owned lands and lands managed by other Federal agencies, such as the National Park Service and the Department of Defense. This Plan's actions apply only to the 12.1 million acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Decisions in the Plan do not diminish the legal rights of adjacent or intermingled landowners. The Plan does not bestow upon the Secretary of the Interior powers of eminent domain (condemnation), nor does it terminate rights-of-way, permits, leases, or other valid existing rights. And the Plan is based on the concept that management of public lands will be coordinated with the management of other lands in the Desert.

A broad framework. The Plan establishes basic management principles that will aid managers in avoiding the pitfalls of excessive compromise, indecision, and piecemeal action. A rational management structure both defines the land manager's response to land and resource use demands, and guides him in designing and implementing numerous specific plans in support of resource productivity and resource use.

An evolving process. The Plan is not a rigid and minutely described formula, but an evolving process which provides a basis for ongoing action of both broad principles and specific actions. The Plan establishes a monitoring program to gauge the effects of its actions upon resources. Its implementation is intertwined with public participation and intergovernmental coordination activities. Expanding knowledge of resources and natural processes allows the Plan to remain relevant yet firmly grounded in its overall principles of balanced use and protection of desert resources.

Simple and clear direction. Recognizing that achieving the Plan's goal is a responsibility shared by BLM and the public, the Plan seeks to avoid complexity and confusing detail in its decision-making processes and management direction. The burden of management is reduced through an active program to inform and involve the desert user. Wherever appropriate, recognizable man-made and natural features define the boundaries of the varying patterns of uses described by the Plan.

The Plan's direction is stated in the form of three different management perspectives or categories:

Multiple-Use Classes

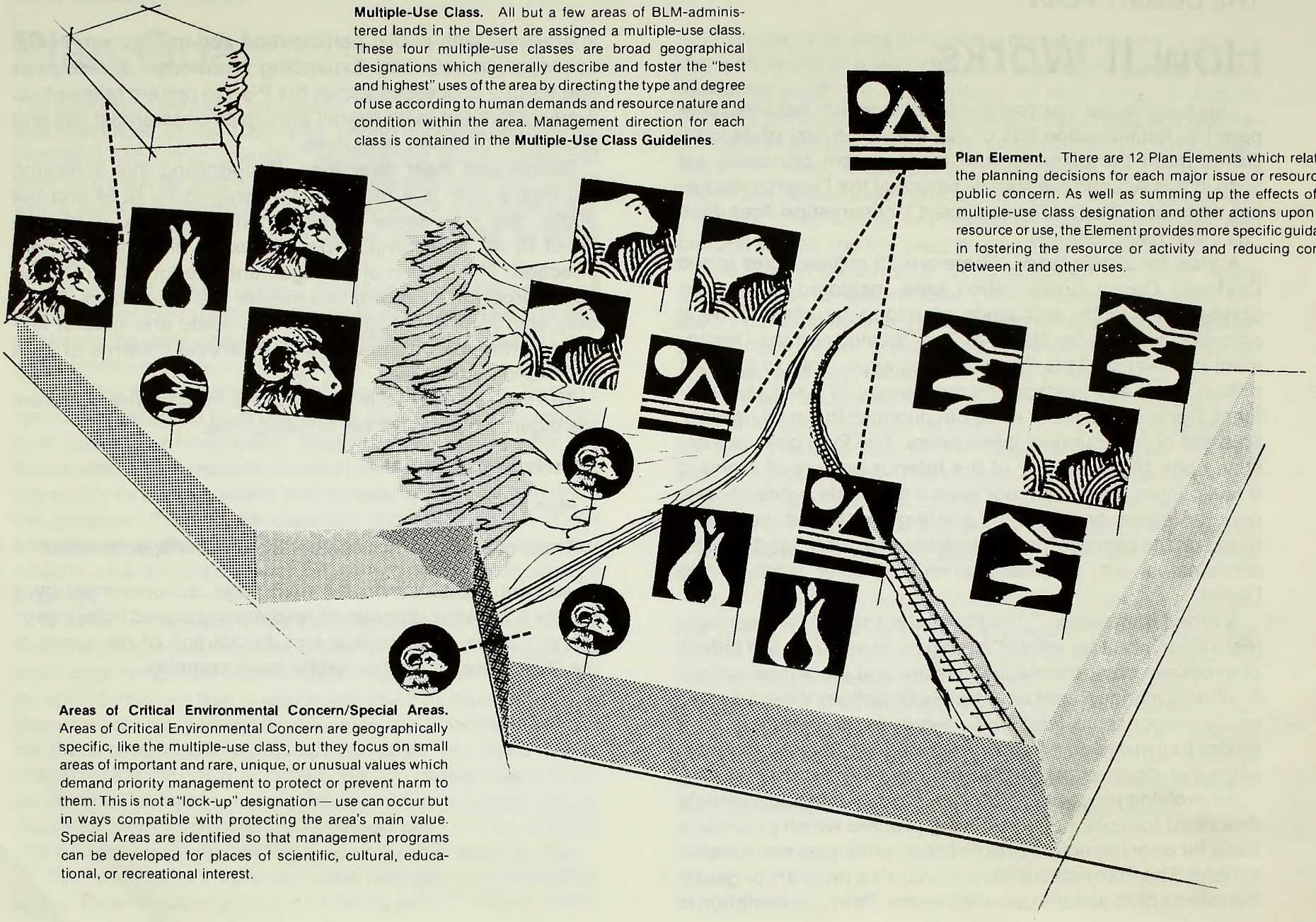
Plan Elements

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Special Areas

These are explained on the next page, accompanied by a simple schematic diagram of resources grouped in four geographic areas. The number and distribution of resources in the Desert are, of course, vastly more complex.

Multiple-Use Class. All but a few areas of BLM-administered lands in the Desert are assigned a multiple-use class. These four multiple-use classes are broad geographical designations which generally describe and foster the "best and highest" uses of the area by directing the type and degree of use according to human demands and resource nature and condition within the area. Management direction for each class is contained in the **Multiple-Use Class Guidelines**.

Plan Element. There are 12 Plan Elements which relate to the planning decisions for each major issue or resource of public concern. As well as summing up the effects of the multiple-use class designation and other actions upon that resource or use, the Element provides more specific guidance in fostering the resource or activity and reducing conflict between it and other uses.



Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Special Areas. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are geographically specific, like the multiple-use class, but they focus on small areas of important and rare, unique, or unusual values which demand priority management to protect or prevent harm to them. This is not a "lock-up" designation — use can occur but in ways compatible with protecting the area's main value. Special Areas are identified so that management programs can be developed for places of scientific, cultural, educational, or recreational interest.

Multiple-Use Classes

The foremost decision of the Plan is the assignment of multiple-use classes. These broad management regimes guide the kinds and degree of use which may occur within a particular geographic area, according to the condition and sensitivity of resources present and the extent of human demands placed upon them. All but about 300,000 of the Desert's 12.1 million acres of public lands have been designated as one of the following four classes.

Multiple-Use Class C (Controlled Use) serves to make "preliminary recommendations" of areas for wilderness designation, as required by the wilderness review provisions of Section 603 of FLPMA. These recommendations are subject to the findings of mineral surveys and final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior and the President before being submitted to Congress, which is the only body which can formally designate wilderness. Wilderness Study Reports will accompany these recommendations. Class C will subsequently identify Congressionally designated wilderness areas.

Multiple-Use Class L (Limited Use) protects sensitive natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resource values. Public lands designated as Class L are managed to provide for generally lower-intensity, carefully controlled multiple use of resources, while ensuring that sensitive values are not significantly diminished.

Multiple-Use Class M (Moderate Use) is based upon a controlled balance between higher intensity use and protection of public lands. This class provides for a wide variety of present and future uses and development. Class M is also designed to conserve desert resources and to mitigate damage to those resources which permitted uses may cause.

Multiple-Use Class I (Intensive Use) provides for concentrated uses of lands and resources to meet human needs and demands, such as mining and greatly concentrated motorized-vehicle-oriented recreation. Resource protection will be provided for sensitive natural and cultural values. Mitigation of impacts will occur insofar as possible.

The map in the back pocket of this booklet shows the distribution of these classes in the CDCA. The table below describes the relative proportions and acreages of these classes:

Multiple-Use Class	Acres (000)	% Total of BLM Lands
C	2,099	17.3
L	5,883	48.5
M	3,336	27.5
I	499	4.1
Unclassified	314	2.6
Total	12,131	100.0

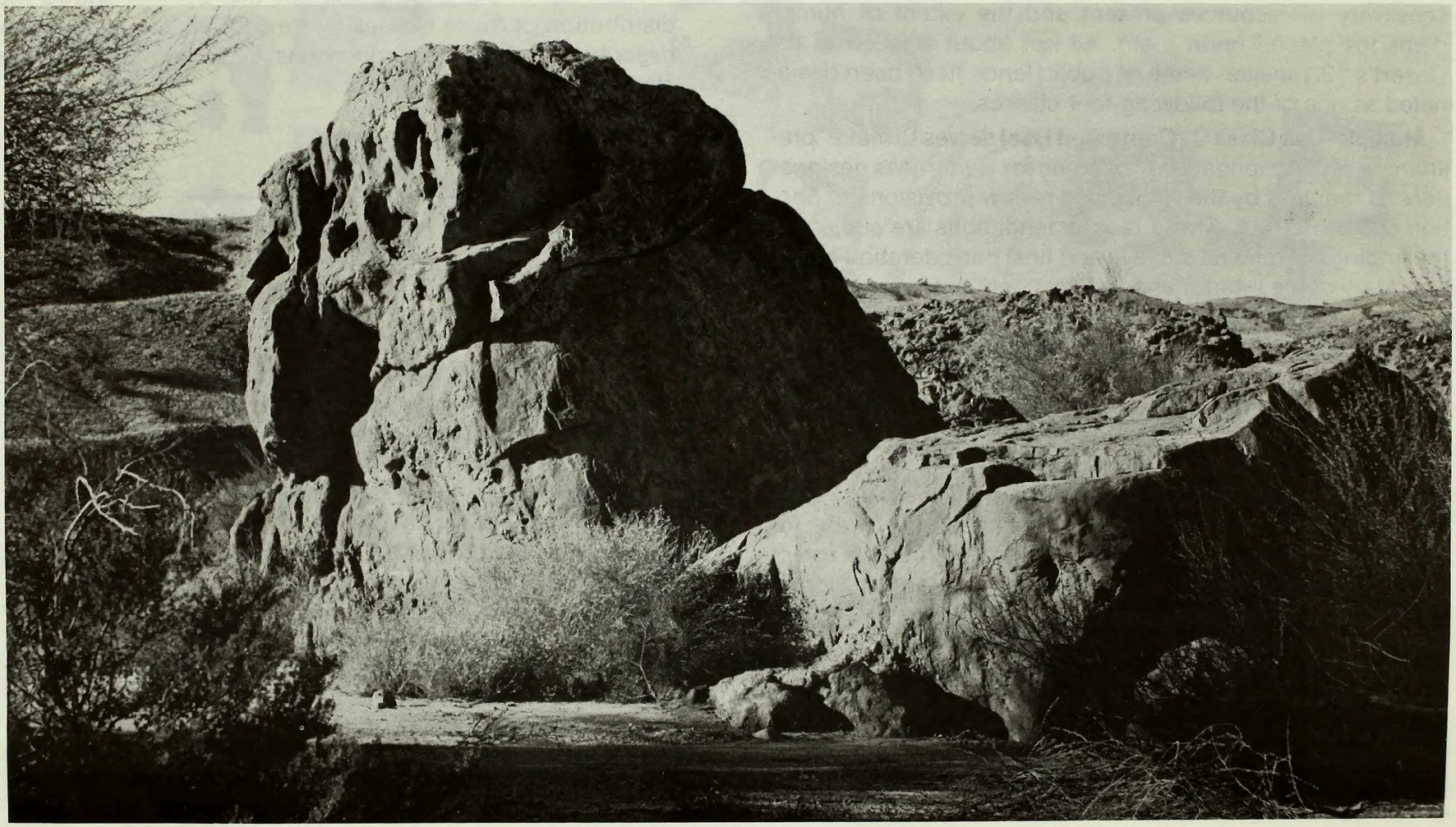
On the reverse of the Multiple-Use Class Map is the full text of the Multiple-Use Class Guidelines, which describe how each of 19 major uses and resources will be treated in each multiple-use class to fulfill its purpose.

Two major aspects of the multiple-use class guidelines involve "interim phases"; all Class C guidelines, and Class L guidelines for motorized-vehicle access.

Class C guidelines are examples of the kinds of management which could be implemented when Congress formally designates wilderness. Specific management actions will depend on the direction given in specific wilderness legislation. Until Congress makes its final determinations on suitability of areas for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, overall management of all Class C areas will be conducted according to the Department of the Interior's *Inte-*

rim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review or in accordance with Class L guidelines, whichever is more restrictive.

Motorized-vehicle access under Class L is limited to "approved" routes of travel. With the assistance of the public, these "approved" routes will be selected and implemented on the ground over the next two years. Until these "approved" routes are formally adopted, the "interim" existing routes identified in the "Interim Critical Management Program for Vehicle Use in the California Desert" (1:100,000-scale maps) will be used.



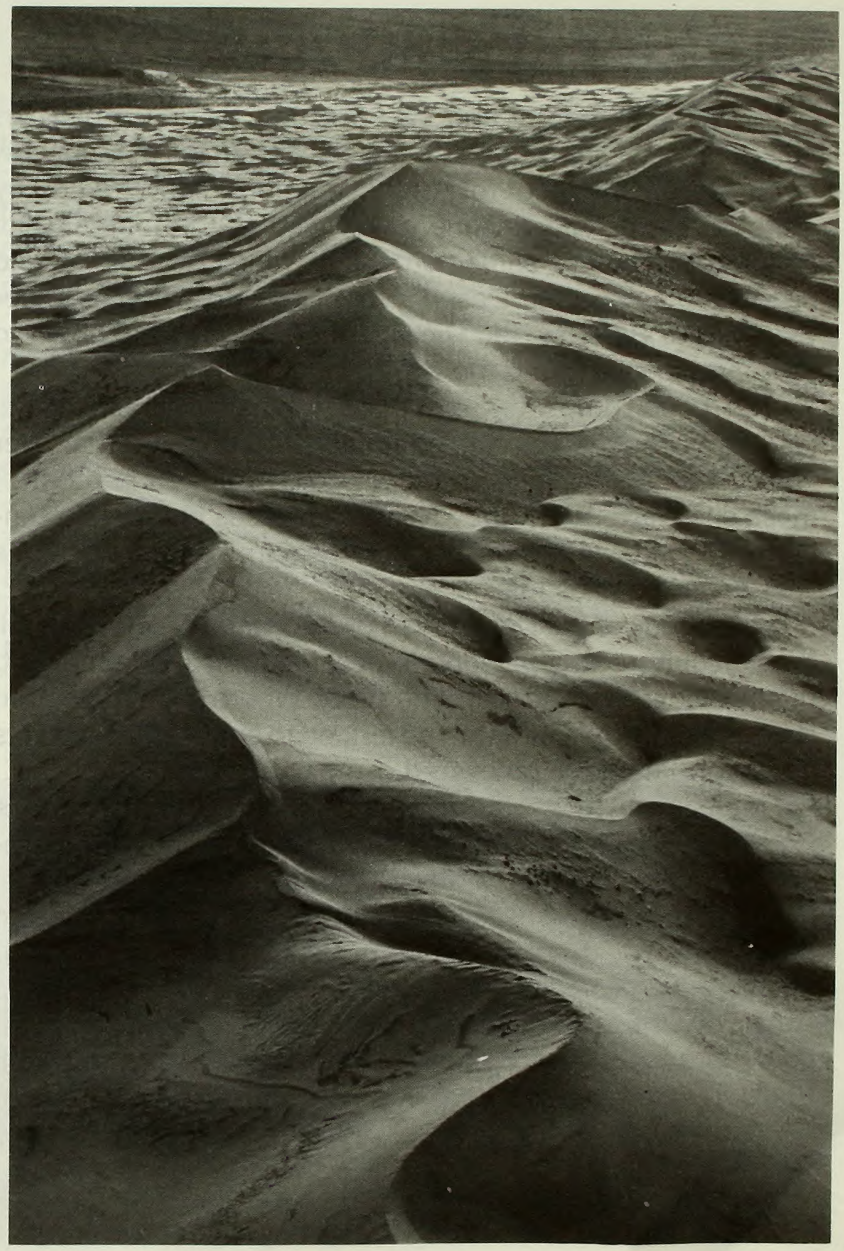
PLAN ELEMENTS

After a geographic area has been assigned a multiple-use class designation, a number of types and levels of use consistent with the guidelines may be allowed within that area. Additional guidance, conflict resolution, stipulations, and mitigation are addressed in 12 Plan Elements:

Cultural Resources
Native American Values
Vegetation
Wildlife
Wild Horses and Burros
Livestock Grazing
Wilderness
Land-Tenure Adjustment
Recreation
Motorized-Vehicle Access
Geology-Energy-Minerals
Energy Production and Utility Corridors

Each of the Plan Elements provides a desertwide perspective of the planning decisions for each major resource or issue of public concern. Each element also provides more specific application or interpretation of the multiple-use class guidelines for a given resource and its associated activities.

Following is a brief discussion of the present condition of each element and an overview of Plan decisions concerning it.



Cultural Resources

The Desert's aridity and slow-moving natural processes make it an excellent scribe for the past struggles of Man. Few of the Desert's trove of resources are more highly valued by visitors than its Native American rock art, the remnants of emigrant trails and settlements, and other prehistoric and historic remains. The Desert's fossil remains engage other visitors; the Barstow and Ricardo Formations are known to paleontologists around the world.

Over 14,000 prehistoric and historic sites have been tallied, leading historians and archaeologists to conclude that over 100,000 such sites exist in the CDCA. About 35 percent of these sites have fallen prey to natural forces and both intentional and inadvertent destruction by Man; about 1 percent a year continue to be lost.

The actions of the Desert Plan protect and preserve the full array of cultural and paleontological resources for continued public enjoyment and scientific study. Where such protection is not feasible, measures are advanced to ensure that artifacts and information are recovered.

The placement of the protection-oriented Multiple-Use Classes C and L will reduce the vulnerability of over three-quarters of known and predicted cultural resource sites of high and very high sensitivity. Those sites of highest value and risk which would not suffer from further disclosure of their locations are protected by special management in 47 of the 75 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Additional management recognition is provided for important sites by such Special Area designations as the *National Register of Historic Places*, which lists 66 officially designated or nominated desert sites.

Cultural resource management plans will be created for important sites identified as Prehistoric-Historic Resource Areas. Many will be devoted to public interpretation to provide contemplation and enjoyment of these values outside the contrived atmosphere of a museum. Others will be held in a "data bank" status for future scientists with more sophisticated data-recovery techniques.

The management of cultural resources under the Plan is an integrated program of environmental awareness, surveillance and patrol, support of well-directed research, and mitigation of adverse impacts. A 1980 Memorandum of Agreement between BLM, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will guide implementation of the program.

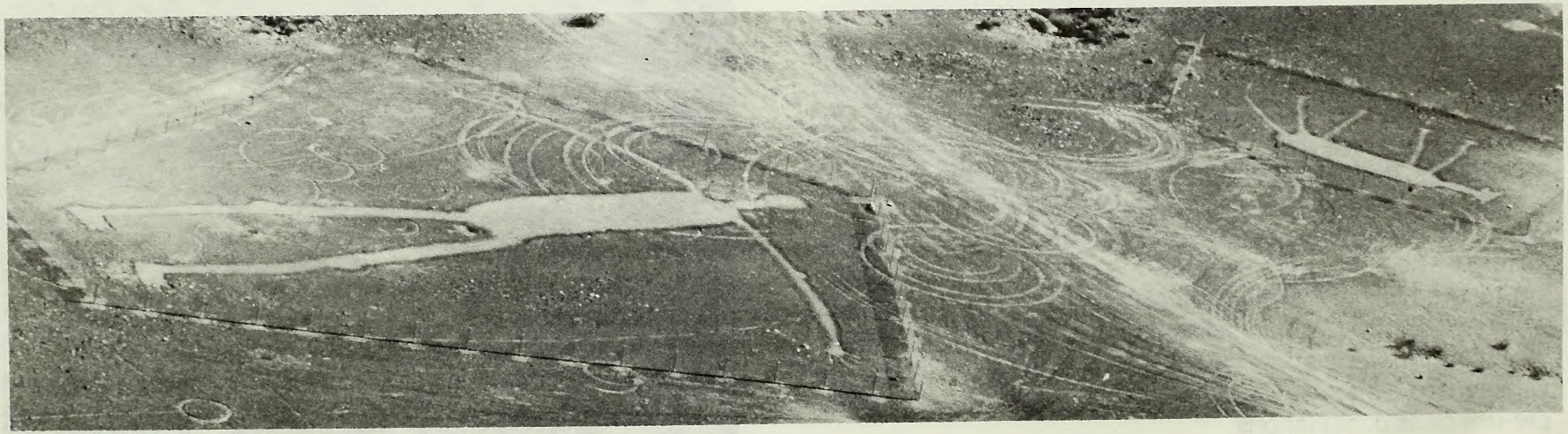
Native American Values

Despite the often debilitating clash with Euroamerican culture, many Native American groups living in or near the California Desert continue the practices of their ancient ways of life. Many still quarry for stone, collect salt, gather food and fiber, and hunt at traditional sites in the Desert. A number of natural features have mythic or sacred value and have been used for centuries to acquire ritual power and divination or for healing practices, initiation rites, and mortuary practices. The secrecy which has protected these sites in the past is insufficient in the face of pervasive modern land uses, many of which can desecrate a sacred site in ways not physically perceivable.

The CDCA Plan responds to the Native American Religious Freedom Act and related legislation by seeking the full consideration of Native American values in all land-use and resource management decisions on public lands in the Desert.

With the assistance of many Native American elders and others, significant values were identified and considered in the assignment of multiple-use classes. About 80 percent of the identified sensitive values occur in Classes C and L. This consultation with Native American representatives also led to the designation of 13 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern which contain these and other values that will receive priority attention under the Plan..

A Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM, the Native American Heritage Commission, and the California State Historic Preservation Officer assures the confidentiality of archaeological and historical data, access to traditional collecting sites and to sites of religious and ceremonial significance, use and possession of sacred objects, and other important rights. Other procedures commit the BLM to ongoing coordination with tribal governments and Native American groups whose values may be affected by actions on the Desert's public lands.



Vegetation

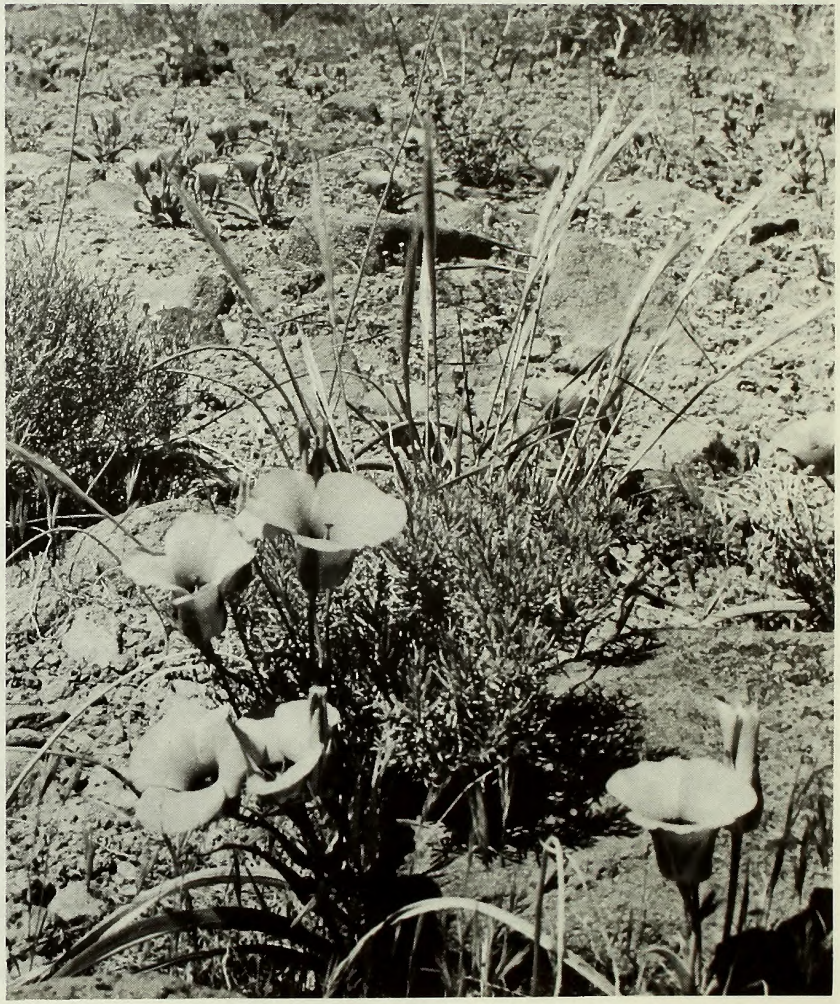
Vibrantly colored spring wildflowers, the pleasing asymmetry of the Joshua tree, and other aesthetic values are the most apparent contributions of desert vegetation. However, the Desert's slow-growing, long-lived perennials and opportunistic annuals are essential to the functioning of the Desert's ecosystems, and provide many values beyond their scenic ones. Accordingly, the CDCA Plan manages vegetation on two planes.

One is the floristic perspective, which recognizes endangered and threatened plant species and rare or unique vegetation groupings called "unusual plant assemblages." The other, the vegetation perspective, is concerned with the productivity and maintenance of the quality and quantity of plant production, both as they contribute to the Desert's natural functions and to the consumptive needs of the public.

Ninety-one species of vascular plants have been identified as potentially rare, threatened, or endangered in the CDCA. Forty-one stands of vegetation identified as unusual plant assemblages have been rated for their sensitivity to disturbance. Among these assemblages are the huge Joshua trees of Pipes Canyon, the three desert locations of the crucifixion thorn, and all important wetland and riparian areas. All are given special consideration in the planning, environmental assessment, and decision-making processes of the Plan.

The Plan also addresses a growing activity, the collection of live whole plants and plant parts and of down and dead plant material. The Plan's general guidelines direct this use according to the type of collection and the multiple-use class in which it occurs. Mechanical, chemical, and other forms of vegetation manipulation which are used to achieve range, wildlife, and other resource goals, are also guided by multiple-use class designations.

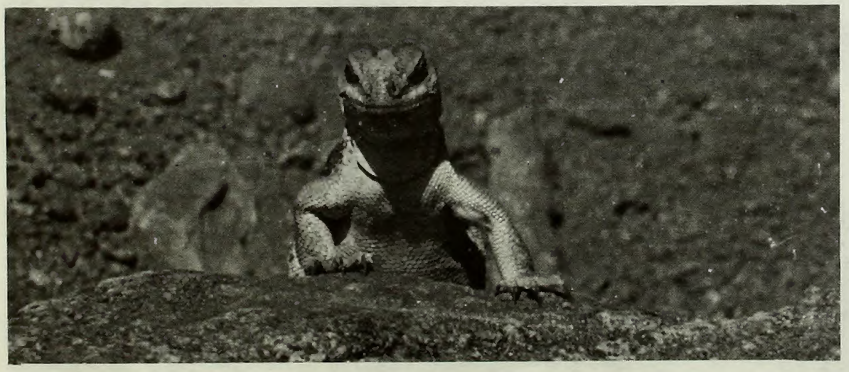
The allocation of plant production for wildlife, wild horses and burros, and livestock grazing is more thoroughly discussed in the elements for these resources. The increasing potential for arid-zone agricultural crops such as jojoba and guayule may warrant the use of public lands for this purpose, should it prove significant in the future.



Wildlife

Barren as the California Desert may seem, it supports a rich diversity of wildlife species which have succeeded in the struggle to overcome harsh conditions. A variety of soils, topography, vegetation, and climate have combined to create over 100 different habitats here. These vary from broad vegetation groupings, like Joshua tree communities, to tiny "islands," such as oases and sand dunes, which may support species found nowhere else in the world. Consideration of the wildlife resource is a keystone in the multiple-use class guidelines and the actions of most Plan elements.

The health of a wildlife species is measured by the quality of its habitat; wildlife habitat in the CDCA, as in many other areas, has fallen prey to the growing extent and intensity of human uses. Since the mid-1800s, populations of many species have declined, several species have disappeared from the Desert, and a few are now extinct altogether. The Plan outlines an aggressive program to provide immediate protection of unique and sensitive habitats and of the wildlife they support; of rare, threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; and of examples of representative habitats and ecosystems of the Desert.



Twenty-seven Areas of Critical Environmental Concern have been designated to ensure that wildlife habitat quality will be enhanced or maintained over the long term. Habitat management plans, another primary wildlife management tool, will outline active, intensive management support of important species or habitats in 59 identified areas. These and other important areas will receive special attention in the environmental assessment process for specific development projects. Additionally, several desertwide species management plans will be prepared to address the unique needs of sensitive species with wide distribution or large geographic ranges, such as the desert tortoise and bighorn sheep.

Overall, habitat management will be guided by an approach which recognizes that a healthy functioning wildlife habitat system is more important than merely the sum of its individual features.

Wild Horses and Burros

The Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 declares these animals to be an integral part of the public lands and protects them from human harassment and unauthorized capture. In recent years, populations of these animals in the California Desert have swelled to nearly 1,000 horses and over 10,000 burros. The numbers are increasng at an annual rate of 10 to 15 percent.

The magnified pressure of non-native burros has resulted in overgrazing, pollution of water sources, loss of riparian habitat, soil erosion, and other disturbances of the ecological balance upon which both these animals and native wildlife depend. Conflicts between burros and livestock and cultural resources also demand attention.

The CDCA Plan outlines an active program to restore and maintain a thriving ecological balance that will assure healthy and stable wild horse and burro herds and reduce conflicts with other resources.

Twenty-two wild horse and burro areas, some containing both types of animals, were identified within the Desert during the CDCA inventories. Wild horses and burros will be managed in 17 areas and removed from the remaining five because of major conflicts with wildlife and other natural resources. An accelerated capture program, to maintain healthy, viable populations, will reduce numbers in the 17 areas to a total of about 280 horses and 2,750 burros. Because of the numbers of burros on the Desert now, and the degree of impacts they are causing, initial management emphasis must be on reduction of burro numbers.

Captured animals will be placed with qualified applicants under the Bureau's Adopt-a-Horse Program. When applicants are no longer available to "adopt" these animals, they will be humanely disposed of.

Six herd management area plans for these 17 areas will be prepared to describe methods to improve the condition of individual animals, maintain stable herd levels, and to provide adequate food, cover, water, and living space. Herds will be monitored constantly to gauge their health, stability, and freedom to roam unfettered by any demands but those imposed by the Desert's environment.

Livestock Grazing

Livestock grazing was one of the first values recognized in the California Desert and it continues to be an important use today. Under the stewardship of private ranchers using Bureau of Land Management allotments, about 75,000 sheep and 14,000 cattle depend partly or entirely on forage on about 4.5 million acres of public lands. The Bureau's rangeland management program includes authorization, management, and supervision of grazing use, development of range improvements, and protection of range resources from invasion of unwanted plants in 54 existing allotments and 15 proposed allotments in the Desert. Competition for forage between livestock, wild horses and burros, and wildlife, and conflicts between livestock and recreationists complicate this rangeland management program.

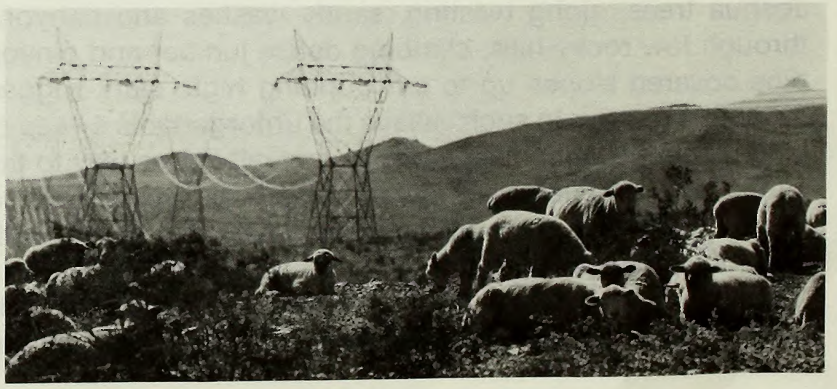
The Desert Plan assures that public lands will continue to contribute to the Nation's supply of food and fiber. Under the Plan's rangeland management program, livestock will be distributed more evenly for more efficient forage use, range condition will improve, and conflicts between livestock and wildlife and wild horses and burros will be reduced.

Among the measures to reduce these conflicts are forage allocations to bighorn sheep and mule deer; keeping domestic sheep out of bighorn sheep habitat; water improvements to reduce conflicts; establishment of minimum forage production of 350 pounds per acre in crucial desert tortoise habitat in ephemeral range before livestock are turned out; and adjustments or clarification of seasons of use on several allotments. In addition, both wildlife and livestock will benefit from many of the rangeland improvements described in the Plan for implementation.

Each of the 54 allotments has been classified as perennial, ephemeral, or ephemeral/perennial range type. Each of these classifications was based on the amount of either perennial or ephemeral vegetation contained in each allotment area. To improve the range condition, grazing intensity has been reduced by 25 percent on "fair" condition range and by 50 percent on "poor" condition range. About 74,700 animal unit months (AUMs) are allocated to livestock on perennial and ephemeral/perennial allotments. This apparent 25 percent decrease in allocated AUMs is mainly the result of eliminating ephemeral vegetation from preference grazing allocations. Fifteen prior-use allotments may be reactivated, which would add an additional 6,000 AUMs.

These and other guidelines for livestock grazing in the Desert will be summarized in a Rangeland Program Summary document. Allotment management plans will be prepared and implemented according to the priorities of this and other resource management programs and final grazing decisions will be developed cooperatively with ranchers and the public.

A key ingredient in the Bureau's rangeland management program and the development of the rangeland stewardship program in the CDCA is consultation with individual ranchers and with the Desert District Multiple-Use Advisory Council.



Wilderness

Some of the most remarkable examples of wilderness anywhere in the Nation occur in the California Desert. During the desert inventory, 5.7 million acres in the CDCA were found to have wilderness characteristics meeting the criteria in the National Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964. Under Section 603 of FLPMA these acres, identified in 138 separate "Wildernes Study Areas," had to be analyzed to determine which should be recommended to Congress as "suitable" for wilderness designation, and which, because of other values or uses, should be considered "nonsuitable." This is required because only Congress can actually designate lands as wilderness.

Many desert visitors have experienced the incredible quality of solitude this grand land grants to those who stray from the beaten path. One of the reasons for going to the Desert most often cited by people who reviewed the Plan, is the feeling of being unconfined and escaping from the works of Man.

A typical desert valley "Wilderness Study Area" is a spectacular display of land from dry, white lakebeds, across sweeping bajadas covered with low creosote or tortured Joshua trees, along twisting, sandy washes and canyons through low rocky hills, climbing dense juniper and pinyon pine covered slopes up to surrounding high, stark rugged mountain ranges. In such valleys the unforgettable sweep of color in spring wildflower displays annually gives way to the subtle hues and pastels of summer heat and winter cold. In this perfectly clear air nothing is hidden except by the vastness of the land itself.

But there are other values here as well: a wealth of minerals held beneath the surface of the land, abundant grasses and shrubs to nourish domestic livestock for human food, key access routes across the Desert for Man and his materials. Where conflicting values were discovered to be more important during the desert planning process, then such "Wilderness Study Areas" were determined to be "nonsuitable" for wilderness designation.

As a result, the Plan makes a preliminary recommendation that 2.1 million acres, in 45 separate locations in the CDCA, are "suitable" for wilderness designation — these areas are shown as Class C. The Plan considers the remaining 3.6 million acres of "Wilderness Study Areas" as "nonsuitable" for wilderness designation, and they were placed in some other multiple-use class.

These recommendations must undergo a further process of review as they proceed to the Secretary of the Interior, the President, and then to Congress for decision, as spelled out in Section 603 of FLPMA. Areas recommended as "suitable" must also have an additional analysis of their mineral values by the U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines.

As required under the law to protect the wilderness potential until this process is complete, all "Wilderness Study Areas" in the CDCA will be managed under the Department of the Interior's *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review*, the 43 CFR 3802 mining regulations, and in accordance with the guidelines for the multiple-use class in which they fall, whichever is more protective.

Land-Tenure Adjustment

The California Desert's intermingled pattern of land ownership and administration is logical only to a land-use historian. This pattern frustrates not only resource management objectives, but also the needs and ambitions of private landowners, Indian reservations, State and local governments, and other Federal agencies.

The actions described in the Plan apply only to the 12.1 million acres of public land in the California Desert Conservation Area. No rights of eminent domain (condemnation) exist except a limited right to provide needed access to public lands. The rights and needs of private landowners in the CDCA will be carefully considered in any proposed action, as well as other valid existing rights on the public land, such as permits, leases, and rights-of-way.

The Plan establishes a program of land acquisition, exchange, and disposal which complements the objectives of other Plan programs, provides stable and beneficial patterns of public and private land use, and establishes cooperation with other public agencies in the management of adjacent and interspersed public and private lands.

Private or State-owned parcels within areas designated by the Plan as unique or sensitive may be recommended for acquisition through exchange or purchase, unless management of those resources is assured by agreement or by another entity. Similarly, BLM-administered land interspersed with mostly private land may be difficult to manage because of lack of access, unclear boundaries, and high cost of managing scattered parcels. Some of these lands should be disposed of, unless they contain resources which BLM must protect because of existing laws.

The Bureau places high priority on negotiations with the State of California to develop a mutually beneficial land-exchange program. The BLM will consider transfer or exchange of ownership to local communities for needed parcels of land based upon their general plans and future service needs. The BLM will also pursue an exchange program with the Southern Pacific Land Company. Boundary adjustments with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and other Federal agencies will be pursued to meet common goals.

Much of the Land-Tenure Adjustment program will focus on the status of the 300,000 acres of BLM-administered land which have not been assigned a multiple-use class designation. After review of resources and values and appropriate consultation with local governments, these parcels may be sold, exchanged, or leased for publically beneficial purposes.

These transactions depend, of course, on available funding and the willingness of other owners and administrators to negotiate. Nonetheless, the Bureau will actively pursue programs to meet the Plan's goals, especially those of sensitive resource protection and enhancement of recreation opportunities.

Recreation

The recreationist has replaced the pioneer, miner, and rancher as the most frequently found human on the Desert's public lands. Visitors are charmed not only by the California Desert's stark scenic beauty and unusual natural processes, but also by its opportunities for solitude and escape from southern California's urban areas, where 85 percent of these visitors live. Recreationists now tally up over 15 million visitor use days per year, a number that will grow with increasing population, affluence, appreciation of the Desert's resources, and increasing energy costs and shortages that will force recreation trips of shorter distance and longer duration.

The Desert Plan provides for the full range of recreation opportunities which attract these visitors. The BLM's management is committed to helping resolve the conflicts among recreationists and between recreationists and other desert users. Programs of interpretation and environmental awareness will complement other measures to protect the qualities of the Desert which most visitors value.

Among the recreation opportunities which management serves are:

Open Space. Open space opportunities will continue to be abundant, even including two dry lakebeds designated exclusively for non-motorized vehicle activities such as land sailing and model airplane flying.

Natural Study and Resource-Oriented Recreation. Sightseers, campers, hikers, and others will be rewarded by the Plan's provisions to protect a variety of unspoiled settings, natural processes, and cultural resources. A keystone of the Plan is that access to important recreation spots, such as rockhounding and hunting areas, is maintained.

Wilderness Recreation. Those who seek primitive and unconfined forms of recreation will enjoy a wilderness system accessible from urban areas and designed to represent the gamut of desert landforms and ecosystems.

Vehicle Play. Half a million acres in Class I have been selected to provide a variety of challenges and opportunities for motorized-vehicle operation. A consideration in the "open" designation of these areas was their proximity to urban populations. These are also areas of traditional motorized-vehicle use, they have recognizable boundaries, and there are few conflicts with sensitive resources.

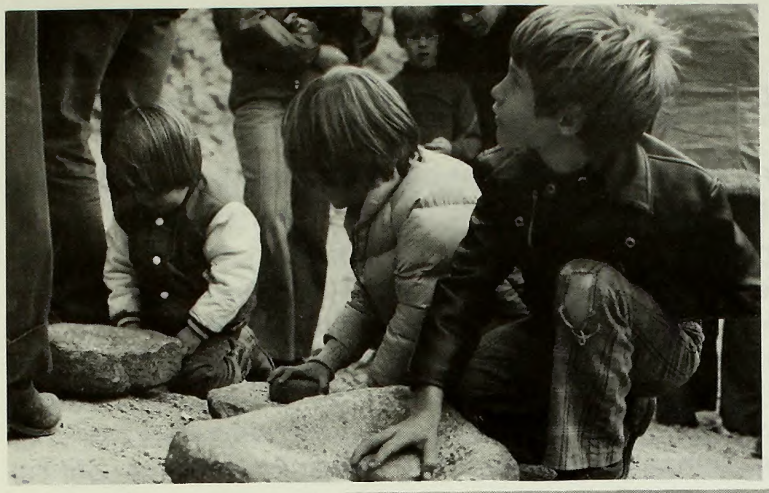
Competitive Vehicle Events. Competitive event courses which provide a variety of terrain and challenges to participants will be allowed in Class I and on existing routes in Class M. Courses may also be permitted to cross Class L lands on approved routes after a permitting process is completed which evaluates environmental values, other resources, and safety requirements. Three point-to-point routes between open areas have been provided.

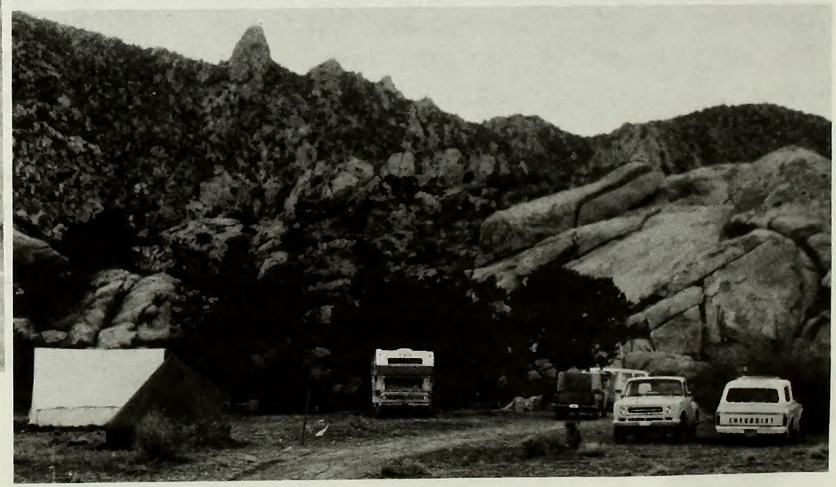
The Plan's recreation program is coordinated with several other Plan programs. Recreation access, for example, was a significant criterion in the design of the Motorized-Vehicle Access element. The recreation program also oversees the inclusion of environmental design principles to protect scenic quality in all of the Bureau's management plans.

Visitor information needs will be served by environmental education and interpretation programs, maps and brochures, and a planned Public Information Office program.

Campgrounds, parking loops, and other facilities may be developed where needed to meet the goals of this element, although they will be kept to a minimum.

Helping recreationists of all kinds to enjoy the sense of freedom and independence that the Desert provides is a major concept in, and goal of, this Plan.





Motorized-Vehicle Access

Access throughout the California Desert has traditionally been the key to use of the region's resources. As use of these resources has grown, so too has the need for access to them. In a region which remains relatively undeveloped and fraught with natural hazards, the motorized vehicle has emerged as the essential tool of access, tied inextricably to needs as varied as mineral development, wilderness recreation, and access for private landowners. Routes of travel have expanded to include 45,000 miles of routes ranging from paved and maintained roads to dirt roads and trails, and vehicle-accessible washes; these are generally well distributed and serve current land-use and resource-management goals. There are some exceptions where an unnecessary proliferation of vehicle routes is degrading the desert environment.

The Plan's system of access is designed to meet the full range of access demands, reduce conflicts between users, and avoid or minimize damage to sensitive natural and cultural values. Specific route approval will be part of Plan implementation and will involve further public input. The success of these goals is largely the burden of informed and responsible desert users.

Access rules and route designations must be clear and easy to follow. Three major designations apply to all public lands in the desert: **Open** — vehicles may travel anywhere within the area; **Closed** — vehicle use is not allowed; **Limited** — vehicle use is allowed on routes of travel: "approved routes" in areas of sensitive resource values, and "existing routes" in all other areas of the CDCA.

Generally, the multiple-use class determines which of these designations applies:

Class C (Wilderness)	**Closed**, when designated by Congress
Class L	**Limited** to "approved routes of travel"
Class M	**Limited** to "existing routes of travel"
Class I	**Limited** to "existing routes of travel"; **Open** where designated.

Management objectives of individual Areas of Critical Environmental Concern may require either closure of the area to vehicles or limitation of their use to "approved routes." Identified sand dunes and dry lakes, which have no identifiable routes, are designated as either **open** or **closed**, regardless of the multiple-use class in which they occur.

Over the next two years, the permanent "approved" and "existing routes of travel will be selected and preparation of maps and on-the-ground identification will proceed, all with the help of users. The approval and on-the-ground identification of routes in Class L, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Special Areas are planned to be completed by the end of 1982. In the meantime, the applicable rules governing access in the "Interim Critical Management Program for Vehicle Use on the California Desert" will apply.

This access system is not static. The Desert remains one of the most accessible regions of its size and character anywhere in the world, and the Plan's rational pattern of vehicle access will be continually revised to serve new, legitimate needs.

Geology-Energy-Minerals

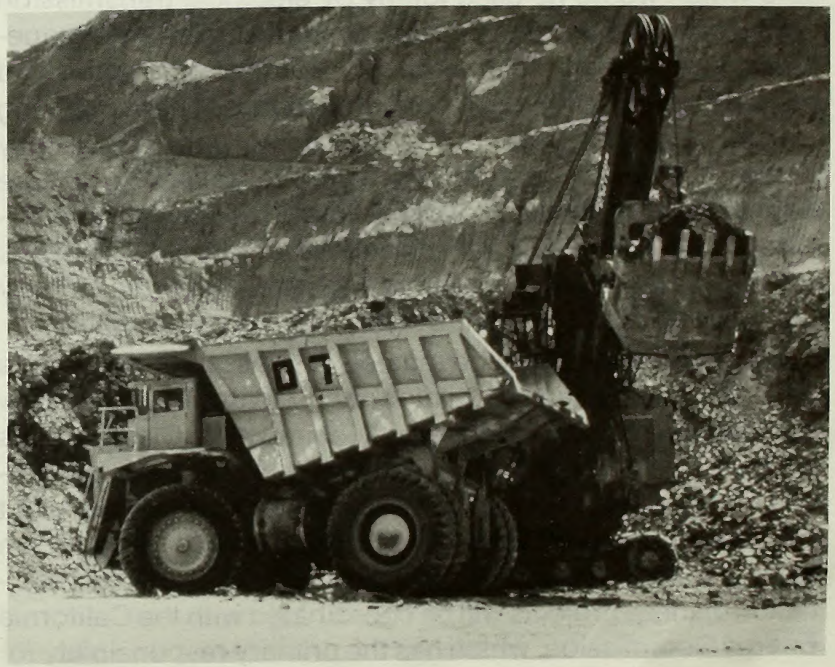
Processes ranging from the geologically young volcanism of the Coso Range to the still-active faulting of the San Andreas system have shaped one of the most geologically diverse regions in the United States. The Desert's sparse vegetation exposes these features for excellent scientific research and educational opportunities. In turn, these features enclose significant energy and mineral resources, some of which are nationally and internationally important. A mineral economc evaluation of 25 of the CDCA's 46 known mineral quantities revealed a mineral estate estimated at over $200 billion. Presently the California Desert produces 15 percent of the Nation's talc, 10 percent of its gypsum, and 5 percent of its iron. The majority of the U.S. borax and most of the world's rare earth elements are produced here. Active leasing and exploration for energy resources have revealed prime geothermal areas, particularly in Imperial County.

The CDCA Plan recognizes and supports access and opportunities for mineral exploration and development on public lands. The Bureau will work with mineral interests to develop techniques which enhance the productive capacity of the Desert's mineral and energy resources, while minimizing or avoiding environmental damage.

As outlined in the multiple-use class guidelines, mineral exploration and mining operations are subject to the Bureau's surface-mining regulations, 43 CFR 3802 and 43 CFR 3809. These regulations require operators to prevent "undue degradation" of public lands and to provide adequate environmental safeguards. The "3802 regulations" outline requirements to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability in Wilderness Study Areas awaiting Congressional decision on designation. The "3809 regulations" apply to all public lands not under wilderness review by the BLM.

The regulations which cover the CDCA, and all other public lands, distinguish between casual use and operations which are large enough to cause definite surface disturbances and are conducted under an approved plan of operations. The Bureau will assess the plans of operations for environmental impacts and for adequacy of reclamation measures.

The State of California, county governments in the California Desert, and the Bureau of Land Management will coordinate the application of the Bureau's regulations with those of the State Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 to ensure the simplest possible uniform process ("one-stop shopping") for miners seeking an operating permit, and proper reclamation of the public lands.



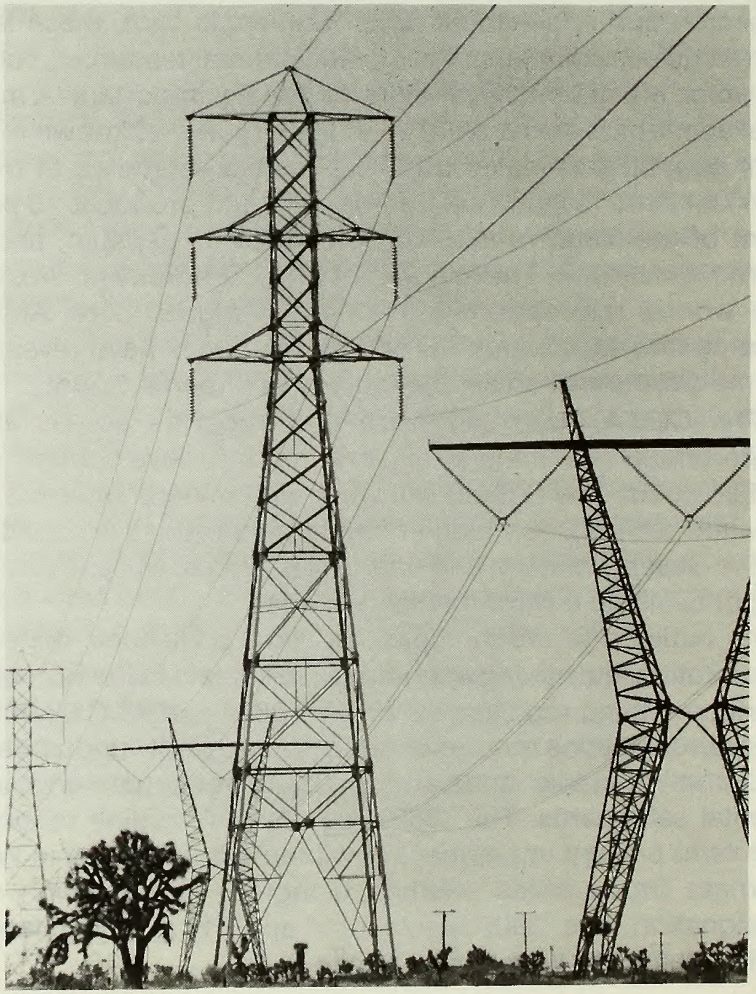
Energy Production and Utility Corridors

Surrounded by either ocean or desert, the urban megalopolis of southern California is essentially an island, isolated from the resources needed to sustain its 12½ million people. Its history and growth are defined by the massive engineering projects devised to create transportation, water, communication, and energy transmission links to resources often hundreds of miles away. Currently, regulatory constraints to control air pollution and powerplant siting in the Los Angeles Basin have increased pressures on utility companies in supplying anticipated increases in demand.

The Plan meets the challenge of projected utility demands to the Year 2000 by providing a network of 16 planning corridors which would be used jointly by electrical transmission towers and cables of 161 kilovolts or more, major water aqueducts, pipelines with diameters of 12 inches or greater, and coaxial cables for interstate communications. These planning corridors, which range from 2 to 5 miles wide, are usually based on existing rights-of-way and are located to ensure engineering feasibility, to avoid or minimize damage to natural, cultural, and scenic values, and to comply with the plans and programs of local governments, the California Energy Commission, and the Joint Utilities Advisory Committee.

Powerplant sites may be located in Classes M and I once the State and Federal regulatory and environmental review processes have been successfully completed. Class L lands are available for geothermal, solar, and wind-power generation facility siting; however, fossil fuel and nuclear powerplant sites will not be considered in this class except upon a Plan amendment to change the class designation. The BLM's evaluation of these projects will be coordinated with the California Energy Commission, which has the primary responsibility for determining site locations.

The Plan also identifies locations for probable new communication sites and it includes provisions for land for associated maintenance facilities and access to the towers and related structures.



Areas of Critical Environmental Concern /Special Areas

The Desert has many places which startle, delight, and inform us. The graceful lines and rare lifeforms of the Eureka Dunes, the beautifully grotesque Trona Pinnacles, the prehistoric remnants of human life at Calico are among the many sites which are paid heed by the third type of management direction provided by the Desert Plan. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and Special Areas complement the broad regional management of the multiple-use classes and the resource and activity specific perspective of the Plan Elements.

Seventy-five sites, totalling over 600,000 acres, have been designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to provide the priority management attention FLPMA requires for areas having "important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes." The ACEC designation commits the Bureau to initiate immediate measures to protect, or prevent irreparable harm to, the resources. However, the ACEC is not a "lock-up" designation. The protection measures specified in ACEC activity plans will also be designed to provide for other uses in compatible ways. The degree of threat to critical resources will determine the priority of activity plan preparation and implementation.

Other areas which possess rare, unique, or unusual qualities of scientific, educational, cultural, or recreational significance may have one or more of 11 types of "Special Area" designations applied to them. Among these types are Research Natural Areas, National Historic Landmarks, and National Scenic Trails. Fourteen such areas are identified in the Plan, including Panamint City, Mojave Road, and Cima Dome.

One of the most significant of these Special Areas is the eastern Mojave region of the Desert, which has long been recognized as containing numerous unique natural, cultural, scenic, and recreation values. The East Mojave National Scenic Area has been designated and will be managed to assure maintenance of the region's scenic qualities.

Sharing Responsibility

The Plan is a blueprint for wisely planned and managed resources; it is designed to efficiently marshall energies in service of its goals. If the Plan is to succeed, its implementation must be the responsibility of both the land managers and the public they serve. The Plan is designed to be implemented for a fraction of the "per acre" cost of other Federal, State, and local land managing activities.

The Bureau of Land Management has begun to meet these responsibilities. An aggressive implementation program has begun under the aegis of the newly formed California Desert District and its five Resource Area Offices. This decentralized structure improves efficiency, assures on-site public service, and increases the Bureau's ability to monitor the Plan. Design and implementation of a desertwide monitoring program is among the first tasks of the new District.

The California Desert District is also coordinating the shift in management emphasis to activity planning, the "finish work" on the framework of the Plan. Funds and personnel will be committed to ACEC and Wilderness Study Reports, designation of "approved routes of travel" in Class L, completion of grazing decisions and rangeland improvements, removal and adoption of excess burros, land exchanges with the State, and other activities identified as high priority by the Plan. Concurrently, services and operations will be refined to provide expedient processing of right-of-way applications; grazing permits; mining plans; mineral sales, leases, and permits; and leases for oil and gas and geothermal exploration and development. Ongoing functions include withdrawal review, realty actions, fire management, abatement of unauthorized use, and general surveillance and patrol.

A wide variety of services will be provided to visitors to the Desert, from maps and information to protection and assistance in emergency situations.

A skilled and dedicated Desert District staff will be complemented by the development of a program to use volunteers in all phases of District operations.

Since a pervasive management presence is neither feasible nor desirable, development of an interpretation and education program is a paramount task. Informed and responsible desert users are the key to the public's role in fulfilling its portion of the Desert Plan contract.

Additionally, individuals and organizations have many opportunities to become involved in the ongoing decision-making processes of the Plan, ranging from review of environmental assessments of land-use requests to participation in the various citizens' advisory groups established or maintained by the Plan. For example, the Desert District Multiple-Use Advisory Council will advise managers on various activities from a broad perspective.

Finally, BLM will maintain and strengthen the working contacts established during formulation of the Plan with local counties and cities, Native American tribal governments and groups, State agencies, and other Federal agencies. A major goal of intergovernmental coordination is the integration of BLM studies, inventories, and management plans for the Desert's soil, air, and water resources with those of other responsible agencies and governments in the Desert.

Coordination will also be pursued on such topics as local community needs for such activities as sand and gravel extraction, cultural resource management plans and Native American concerns, energy projects, wildlife management, and land management in areas adjacent to military bases and National Monuments.

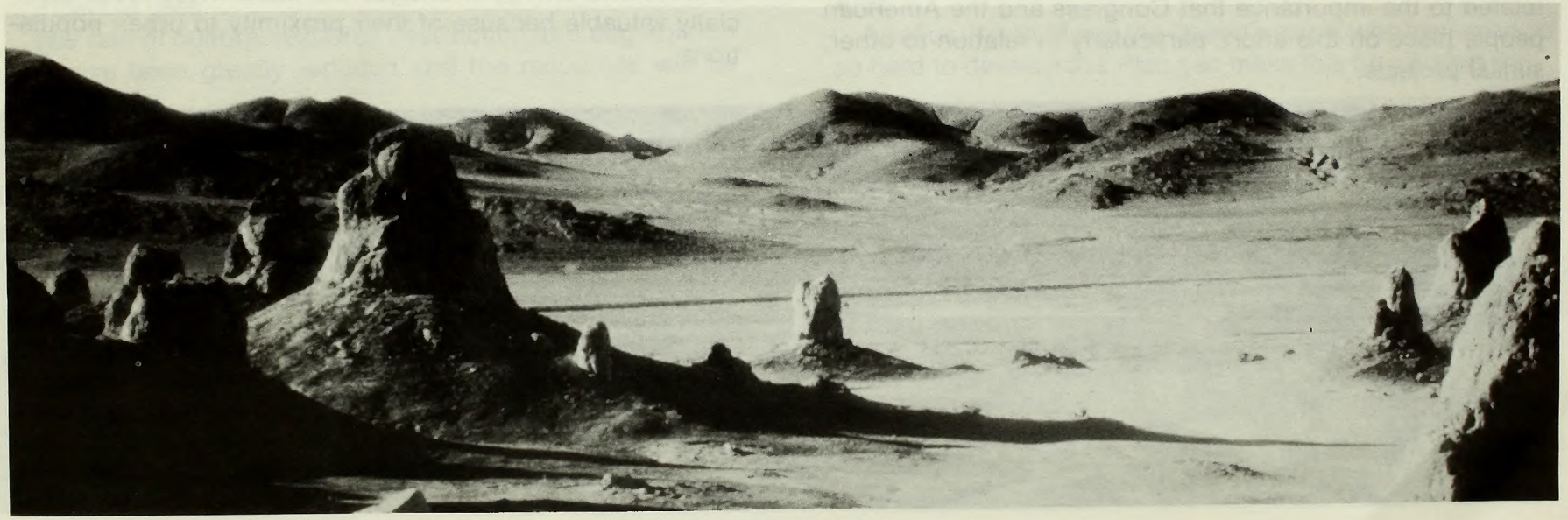
Amending the Plan

The condition and nature of resources, the public expression of concern about and demand for these resources, and the mandates of FLPMA and other laws were thoroughly studied and incorporated into the direction and guiding principles of the Desert Plan. The integrity of these principles must remain intact in implementation of the Plan's decisions. However, the certainty of increasing knowledge of resources and changing human priorities requires that the Plan be able to adjust to unanticipated future needs. The purpose of the Plan amendment process is to provide this flexibility, while ensuring that the Plan retains its essential stability.

Applications and petitions for rights-of-way, leases, permits, and other land and resource uses will be analyzed for their conformance to the Plan and processed according to established procedures. Any person or organization, private or governmental, may suggest changes in the Plan. The amendment process describes how to make these requests and how they will be analyzed and decided upon.

Although the Bureau's planning process normally allows consideration of land-use plan amendments every five years, BLM will consider the need for amendments to the California Desert Plan annually for at least the first five years of its implementation. The Bureau's own review of the need for amendment will be based upon the information derived from the desertwide resource monitoring program and the advice of the Desert District Multiple-Use Advisory Council.

The amendment process provides opportunities for public comment and review of all Plan amendments. Amendments will be carefully evaluated for their effect upon the Plan's obligation to achieve and maintain a firm, desertwide balance between resource use and resource protection.



Investment for the Future

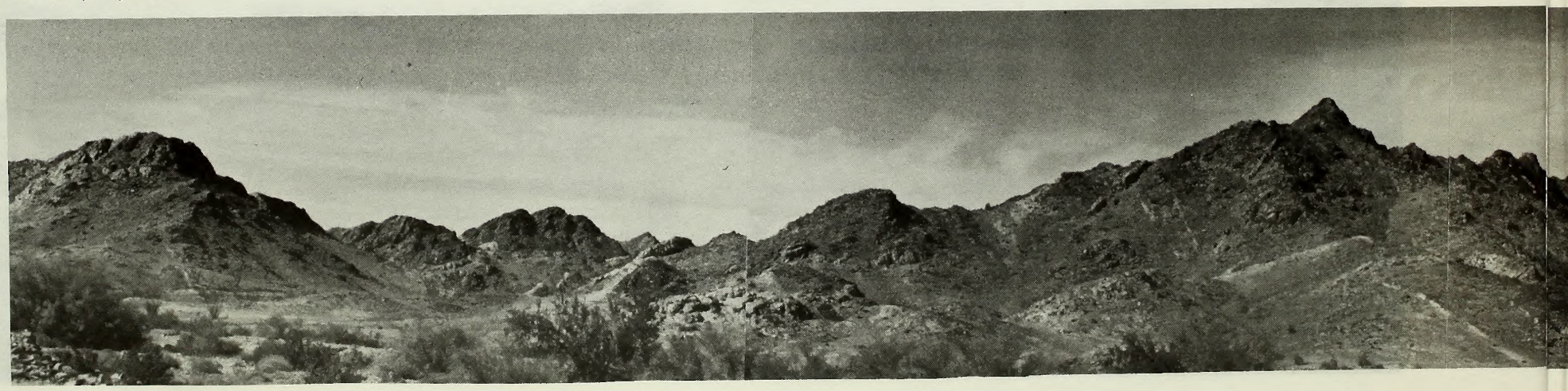
One issue of utmost importance, raised time and again during all phases of development and public review of this Plan, was the commitment to implement the Desert Plan. This concern was expressed by a wide spectrum of desert users: representatives of utility companies and mining interests, wildlife groups, recreation-oriented organizations, and environmental groups, to name just a few. The U.S. Congress, in the legislation that initiated this major planning effort, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, indicated how important it felt implementation to be; Section 601 (a) (6) states that ". . . additional management authority must be provided to the Secretary to facilitate effective implementation of such planning and management."

Implementation of the Plan depends on funds appropriated annually by Congress. Those appropriations are directly related to the importance that Congress and the American people place on this effort, particularly in relation to other, similar projects.

The Plan identifies realistic costs of implementation: over the next three years the cost must gradually increase to $1.50 per acre per year. Consider a portrait of the California Desert in the Year 2000 if this investment is made and the Desert's wide diversity of values and resources remains available for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

The population of southern Calfiornia will have grown to 16¼ million people, a number capable of exerting tremendous pressures on desert resources. However, the public will be an active partner in the management of public lands and more aware of desert resources through programs of education and interpretation.

People escaping from increased urban stresses will find a wide variety of recreation opportunities, ranging from a wilderness system with its opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of activities to vehicle play areas containing the gamut of terrain challenges. Economic stresses and energy shortages will make these areas especially valuable because of their proximity to urban populations.



Wildlife populations will be improving or stabilizing and wild horses and burros will be maintained at stable, healthy levels.

Rangelands throughout the CDCA will be in good condition or better, providing more forage for wildlife and domestic livestock.

The Desert's mineral potential will be better understood and more intensively used, providing vital minerals for the Nation's economy and security. Rehabilitation and restoration will be an integral part of all mining activities.

Continuing its policy of being a good neighbor, the BLM will have completed major land-tenure adjustments. Everyone will benefit from a more lucid pattern of land ownership and administration.

Valid existing uses of public lands will be maintained, including military uses, key access, and rights-of-way.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern will be intensively managed to protect special resource values while allowing compatible uses.

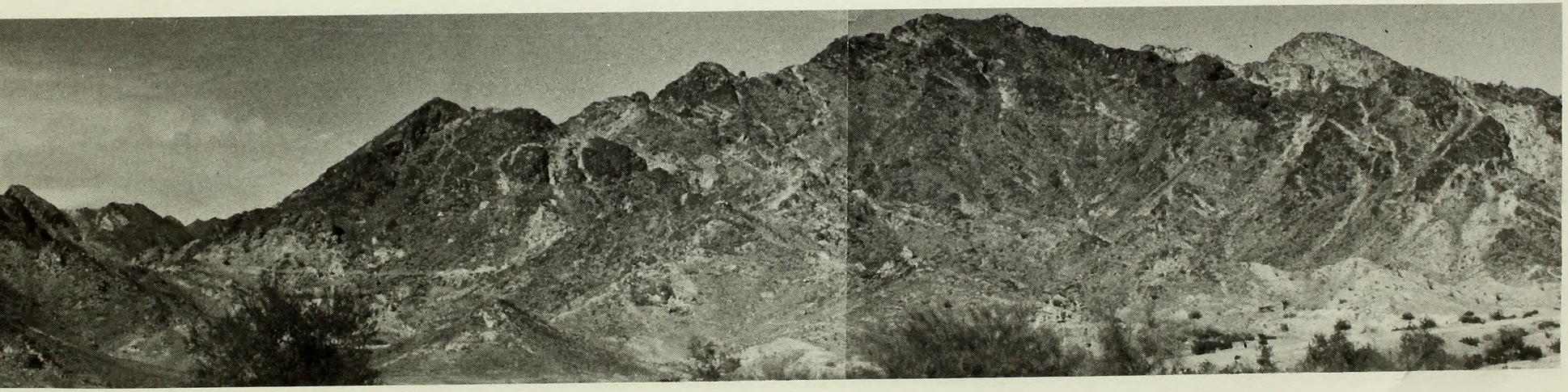
The rate of cultural resource destruction and degradation will have been greatly reduced and the resources will be better understood. We will be better able to contemplate Man's long, continuous history in the Desert.

A rational system of well-distributed motorized-vehicle access will serve the full range of human demands. New routes of travel will be considered and instituted in an orderly process.

New powerplants and transmission lines will be added to meet demands for energy. Geothermal resources will be harnessed and wind and solar generation plants will be producing electricity in the Desert.

In summary, the CDCA will be managed under a dynamic land-use plan that allows for the Desert's use and enjoyment by Man while protecting its sensitive resources and values. The Desert will be in better resource condition than it is today. Consumptive uses will occur in a wise and stable manner. The goals of Congress and the American people of multiple use, sustained yield, and maintenance of environmental quality will have been achieved in the California Desert Conservation Area.

All of us, the BLM and the Desert's users, who have worked so hard to develop this Plan can make this future a reality.



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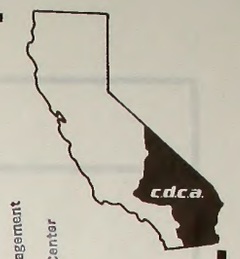
CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA PLAN



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MULTIPLE-USE CLASSES

CLASS C	CONTROLLED	
CLASS L	LIMITED	
CLASS M	MODERATE	
CLASS I	INTENSIVE	

PUBLIC LANDS
NOT WITHIN SPECIFIC MULTIPLE-USE CLASSES

PRIVATE, STATE,
AND OTHER FEDERALLY MANAGED LANDS

PLANNING UNIT

NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

(ACEC) 19

COMPETITIVE EVENT CORRIDOR

ACEC DESIGNATIONS

Map Number	Name
1	WHITE MOUNTAIN CITY
2	WEST RAND MOUNTAINS
3	EUREKA VALLEY DUNES
4	SALINE VALLEY
5	CERRO GORDO
6	DARWIN FALLS
7	ROSE SPRINGS
8	SURPRISE CANYON
9	GREENWATER CANYON
10	FOSSIL FALLS
11	SAND CANYON
12	GREAT FALLS BASIN / ARGUS RANGE
13	AMARGOSA RIVER / GRIMSHAW LAKE
14	KINGSTON RANGE
15	MESQUITE LAKE
16	TRONA PINNACLES
17	DENNING SPRINGS
18	SALT CREEK (Dumont)
19	CLARK MOUNTAIN
20	JAWBONE / BUTTERBREAD AREA
21	LAST CHANCE CANYON
22	DESERT TORTOISE Research Natural Area
23	CHRISTMAS CANYON
24	BEDROCK SPRINGS
25	STEAM WELL
26	SOLAVV SPRING
27	GOLDSTONE
28	CAMP IRWIN MILITARY BOUNDARY
29	HALLORAN WASH
30	MOUNTAIN PASS Dinosaur Trackway
31	NEW YORK MOUNTAINS
32	CAMP ROCK SPRING
33	FORT PIUTE
34	DEAD MOUNTAINS
35	BLACK MOUNTAIN
36	NORTH HARPER DRY LAKE
37	SOUTH HARPER DRY LAKE
38	KRAMER HILLS
39	RAINBOW BASIN / OWL CANYON
40	CALICO EARLY MAN SITE
41	FORT SODA Mohave Chub
42	MESQUITE HILLS / CRUCERO
43	AFTON CANYON
44	SILVER MOUNTAIN VICINITY
45	JUNIPER FLATS
46	UPPER JOHNSON VALLEY Yucca Rings
47	SOGGY DRY LAKE Creosote Rings
48	MARBLE MOUNTAINS Fossil Bed
49	WHITEWATER CANYON
50	BIG MORONGO CANYON
51	OALE LAKE
52	PATTON'S IRON MOUNTAIN Divisional Camp
53	WHIPPLE MOUNTAINS
54	SIDEWINDER WELL
55	PALEN DRY LAKE
57	CHUCKWALLA VALLEY Dune Thicket
58	MULE MOUNTAINS
59	CHUCKWALLA BENCH
60	SALT CREEK Pupfish / Rail Habitat
61	SAN SEBASTIAN MARSH / SAN FELIPE CREEK
62	COYOTE MOUNTAINS Fossil Site
63	COYOTE MOUNTAINS
64	YUHA BASIN
65	LAKE CAHUILLA NO. 2
66	LAKE CAHUILLA NO. 3
67	GOLO BASIN / RANO Intaglios
68	INDIAN PASS
69	LAKE CAHUILLA NO. 5
70	EAST MESA Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Habitat
71	LAKE CAHUILLA NO. 6
72	PLANK ROAD
73	PILOT KNOB
74	CRONESE LAKE
75	MOPAH SPRINGS

Stoddard to Johnson Valley Route

Johnson Valley to Parker Route

Parker 400

WEAPONS CENTER

FORT IRWIN MILITARY RESERVATION

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE

MARINE CORPS BASE

29 PALMS

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

PROVIDENCE MTNS. STATE RECREATION AREA

USMC YERMO AREA

USMC NEBO AREA

MOJAVE DESERT

GUNNERY RANGE

NAVAL LEASE

DESERT STATE PARK

Mc CAIN VALLEY BOUNDARY AREA

ANZA BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

CHOCOLATE MTNS

Imperial County

Kern County

San Bernardino County

Riverside County

BAKER

KELSO

BARSTOW

CALIFORNIA CITY

LANCASTER

VICTORVILLE

29 PALMS

NEEDLES

BLYTHE

EL CENTRO

YUMA

INDIO

PALM SPGS

SAN BERNARDINO

RIVERSIDE

LOS ANGELES

SAN DIEGO

PACIFIC OCEAN

Geo Rock Canyon State Park

Geo AF 8

Fossil Site

63- COYOTE MOUNTAINS
64- YUHA BASIN
65- LAKE CAHUILLA NO. 2
66- LAKE CAHUILLA NO. 3
67- GOLD BASIN / RANO
Intaglios
68- INDIAN PASS
69- LAKE CAHUILLA NO. 5
70- EAST MESA
Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Habitat
71- LAKE CAHUILLA NO. 6
72- PLANK ROAD
73- PILOT KNOB
74- CRONESE LAKE
75- MOPAH SPRINGS

10 0 10 20 30 40 Miles
10 0 10 20 30 40 50 Kilometers

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
DESERT PLANNING STAFF

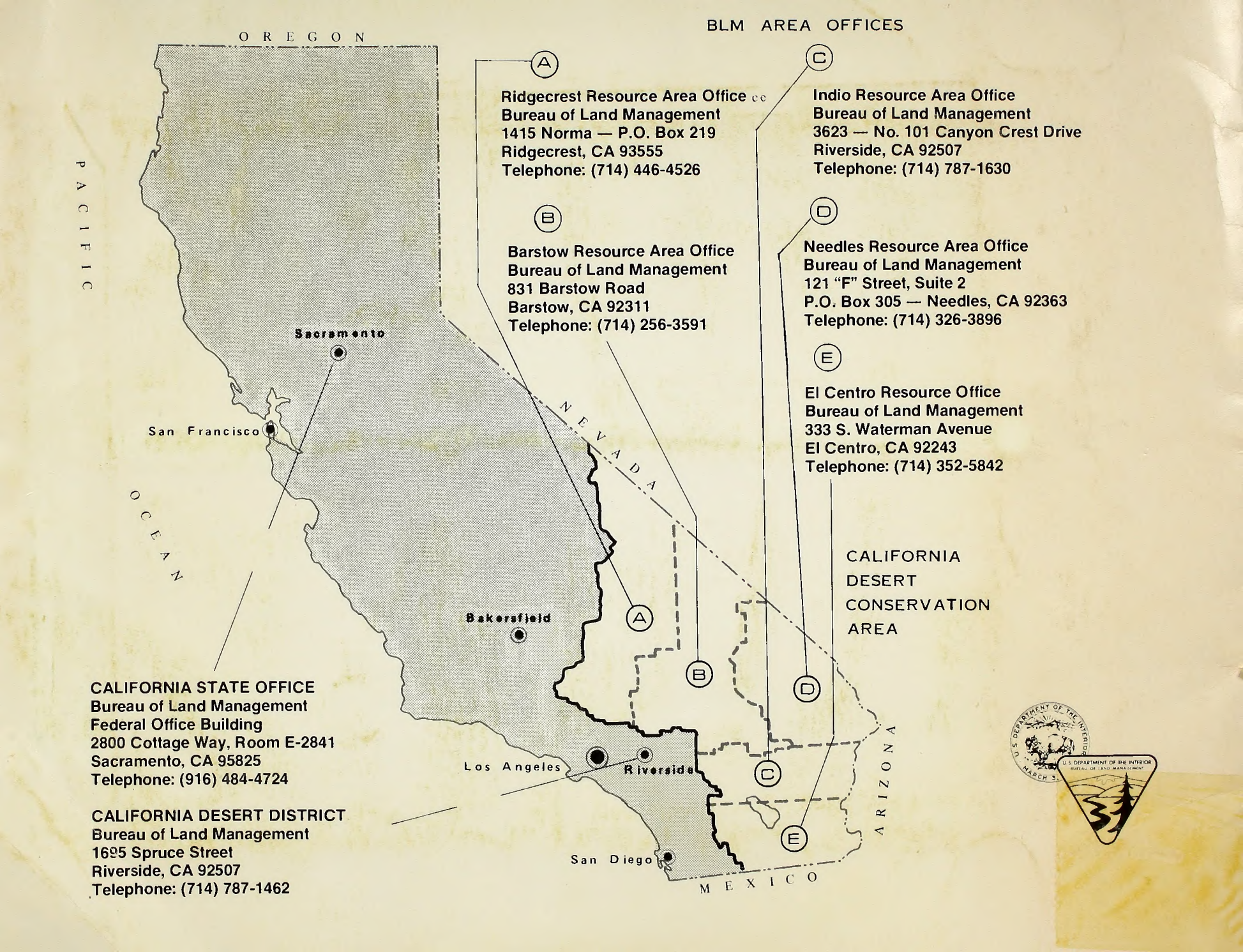
Multiple Use Class Guidelines

	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS C Controlled Use (Wilderness Management)	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS L Limited Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS M Moderate Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS I Intensive Use
	(Note: Class C identifies areas "preliminarily recommended" for wilderness designation by Congress. These guidelines sumarize the kinds of management likely to be used in these areas after formal designation of wilderness by Congress.)			
1. AGRICULTURE	Agricultural uses (excluding livestock grazing) are not allowed.		Agricultural uses may be allowed on suitable land classified for these purposes. Prospective leases for potential desert crops, e.g., jojoba, guayule, or others, may be allowed only after NEPA requirements shall be met.	
2. AIR QUALITY	These areas will be managed to protect their air quality and visibility in accordance with Class II objectives of Part C of the Clean Air Act Amendments unless otherwise designated another class by the State of California (see 42 USC 7474, and the final regulations, if and when promulgated) as a result of recommendations developed by any BLM air-quality management plan.			
3. WATER QUALITY	These areas will be managed to maintain and enhance both surface and groundwater resources.	Areas designated in this class will be managed to minimize degradation of the water resources. Best management practices, developed by the Bureau during the planning process outlined in the Clean Water Act, Section 208, and subsequently, will be used to avoid degradation and to comply with Executive Order 12088.		Areas designated in this class will be managed to minimize degradation of water resources. Best management practices, developed by the Bureau during the planning process outlined in the Clean Water Act, Section 208, and subsequently, will be used to keep impacts on water quality minimal and to comply with Executive Order 12088.
4. CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Archaeological and paleontological values will be preserved and protected. Procedures described in 36 CFR 800 will be observed where applicable. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the BLM, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and for cultural resources the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to protect cultural resource values.			
5. NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES	Native American cultural and religious values will be preserved where relevant and protected where applicable. Native American group(s) shall be consulted. Memorandums of Agreement and Understanding have been signed between BLM and the Native American Heritage Commission pertaining to Native American concerns and cultural resources.			
6. ELECTRICAL GENERATION FACILITIES	Electrical generation plants are not allowed.	Electrical generation plants may be allowed (see wind/solar/geothermal, below).	All types of electrical generation plants may be allowed in accordance with State, Federal, and local laws.	
		Existing facilities may be maintained and upgraded or improved in accordance with special-use permits or by amendments to rights-of-way.		
Nuclear and Fossil Fuel Powerplants	Not allowed.		May be allowed in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws.	
Wind/Solar Powerplants	Not allowed.	May be allowed after NEPA requirements shall be met.		
Geothermal Powerplants	Not allowed.	May be allowed pursuant to licenses issued under 43 CFR Section 3250, et. seq. An EIS will be required.	May be allowed pursuant to licenses issued under 43 CFR Section 3250, et seq. NEPA requiremtnts will be met.	
7. TRANSMISSION FACILITIES	New transmission facilities for electricity, gas, water, and telecommunications are not allowed and new licenses or rights-of-way for these purposes will not be granted, except as provided for in the Wilderness Act of 1964 — 16 USC 1133(d)(4), or as may be specified by Congress.	New gas, electric, and water transmission and trans-desert telecommunications facilities may be allowed only within designated corridors (see Energy Production and Utility Corridors Element). NEPA requirements will be met.		
	Existing facilities may be maintained subject to Wilderness Management Plan.	Existing facilities within designated corridors may be maintained and upgraded or improved in accordance with existing right-of-way grants or by amendments to right-of-way grants. Existing facilities outside designated corridors may only be maintained but not upgraded or improved.		
Distribution Facilities	New licenses or rights-of-way for distribution facilities to serve private properties will not be granted. Existing facilities may be maintained or improved but not expanded.	Existing facilities may be maintained and upgraded or improved in accordance with existing right-of-way grants.		
		New distribution systems may be allowed and will be placed underground where feasible except where this would have a more detrimental effect on the environment than surface alignment. In addition, new distribution facilities shall be placed within existing rights-of-way where they are reasonably available.	New distribution facilities may be allowed and shall be placed within existing rights-of-way where they are reasonably available. NEPA requirements will be met.	
8. COMMUNICATION SITES	New communication sites are not allowed unless required for protection of wilderness values or visitors.	New communication sites may be allowed in designated areas (see map in Utility Element). EA required.	New sites may be allowed. NEPA requirements will be met.	
	Maintenance and operation of existing sites and facilities may be allowed subject to Wilderness Management Plan.	Existing facilities may be maintained and utilized in accordance with right-of-way grants and applicable regulations.		
9. FIRE MANAGEMENT	Fire suppression measures will be taken in accordance with specific wilderness fire management plans to be followed by the authorized officer, and may include use of motorized vehicles, aircraft, and fire retardant chemicals.	Fire suppression measures will be taken in accordance with specific fire management plans subject to such conditions as the authorized officer deems necessary, such as use of motorized vehicles, aircraft, and fire retardant chemicals.		
10. VEGETATION Harvesting (Native Plant)	Removal of vegetation, non-commercial, may be allowed by permit only after an EA or EIS is prepared and after development of necessary stipulations.	Removal of vegetation, commercial or non-commercial, may be allowed by permit only after NEPA requirements have been met and after development of necessary stipulations.		

	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS C Controlled Use (Wilderness Management)	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS L Limited Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS M Moderate Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS I Intensive Use
12. LIVESTOCK GRAZING (Cont)	Manipulation of vegetation by chemical or mechanical means will not be allowed.	Manipulation of vegetation by chemical or mechanical means will not be allowed, except for site-specific needs. (See Vegetation Element.)	Manipulation of vegetation by chemical or mechanical means may be allowed and may be designed, developed, and managed for intensive livestock use.	
13. MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT	These guidelines summarize the kinds of management likely to be used in these areas after formal designation of wilderness by Congress. Congressional enactment of wilderness will prescribe mining rules and possible cutoff dates for mineral entry. The information below indicates the possible restriction after enactment. The following summarizes possible significant provisions of the Wilderness Act as it applies to mineral exploration and development after Congress officially designates the areas as wilderness. (For more detailed information, see the G-E-M Element or the Wilderness Act of Sept. 3, 1964). Minerals Prospecting and Exploration Prospecting and exploration for the purpose of gathering information about mineral resources are allowed, provided such activities are carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment. Mineral Development All designated wilderness areas may be withdrawn from mineral entry at some time subsequent to Congressional designation. Following withdrawal, *no new mining claims* may be located, and no new permits, leases, or material sales contracts may be issued subject to deadlines established by Congress. Valid existing mining operations may continue pursuant to submission and approval of operational plans which will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of wilderness qualities.	*Leasable Minerals* Except as provided in Appendix 5.4, 516 DM 6, NEPA Procedures titled "Categorical Exclusions," prior to issuing any mineral leases, an environmental assessment will be prepared on the proposed mineral leasing action. As this class is an area of significant public concern, 60 days' public comment will be provided on the EA. An EIS will be prepared if the proposal would significantly impact the quality of the human environment and this should be expected in areas of especially sensitive surface resources. Mitigation measures as appropriate, subject to technical, ecological, wildlife, vegetation, and culturtal values. Prior to any operations upon mineral leases, the operator shall submit the appropriate notices or applications to BLM or the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as appropriate, as specified in 43 CFR 3100, 3200, 3500. All applications submitted to the USGS shall be treated under existing joint BLM/USGS procedures (i.e., S.O. 2948) and other applicable regulations. Reclamation requirements are contained within these procedures. *Locatabled Minerals* Location of mining claims is nondiscretionary. Operations on mining claims are subject to the 43 CFR 3809 Regulations and applicable State and local law. In most instances, plans of operation shall be required and treated as specified in the above regulation. An EA shall be prepared on the proposed plans of operations. As this class is a sensitive area of public concern, a 60-day public review period shall be held on all mining and reclamation plans filed in this class. BLM will review plans of operations for potential impacts on sensitive reesources identified on lands in this class. Mitigation, subject to technical and economic feasibility, will be required. *Saleable Minerals* Except as provided in Appendix 5.4, 516 DM 6, NEPA Procedures titled "Categorical Exclusions," for new sites less than 5 acres in size, and EA shall be required for all material sales locations, including sand and gravel. For new sites greater than 5 acres, or in sites less than 5 acres where the EA indicates a significant level of adverse impacts, an EIS shall be required.	*Leasable Minerals* Except as provided in Appendix 5.4, 516 DM 6, NEPA Procedures titled "Categorical Exclusions," prior to issuing any mineral leases, an EA will be prepared on the proposed leasing action. Mitigation measures will be required to protect sensitive scenic, ecological, wildlife, vegetative, and cultural values. Prior to any operations upon mineral leases, the operator shall submit the appropriate notices or applications to BLM or the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as appropriate, as specified in 43 CFR 3100, 3200, 3500. All applications submitted to the USGS shall be treated under existing joint BLM/USGS procedures (i.e., S.O. 2948) and other applicable regulations. Reclamation requirements are contained within these procedures. *Locatable Minerals* Location of mining claims is nondiscretionary. Operations on mining claims are subject to the 43 CFR 3809 Regulations and applicable State and local law. In most instances, plans of operations shall be required and treated as specified in the above regulation. NEPA requirements shall be met. BLM will review plans of operations for potential impacts on sensitive resources identified on lands in this class. Mitigation, subject to technical and economic feasibility, will be required. *Saleable Minerals* Except as provided in Appendix 5.4, 516 DM 6, NEPA Procedures titled "Categorical Exclusions," new material sales locations, including sand and gravel sites, will require an EA.
		Continued use of existing areas of sand and gravel extractions is allowed subject to BLM permits, as specified in 43 CFR 3600.		
14. MOTORIZED-VEHICLE ACCESS/ TRANSPORTATION	Motorized-vehicle use is generally not allowed unless provided for in individual wilderness legislation and management plans or if necessary to serve valid existing rights, and for emergency use for public safety, or protection of wilderness values.	New roads and ways may be developed under right-of-way grants or pursuant to regulations or approved plans of operation. Motorized-vehicle use is allowed on approved routes of travel. This means that existing routes of travel are closed unless specifically designated open.	Motorized-vehicle use will be allowed on existing routes of travel unless designated closed by the authorized officer. New routes may be allowed upon approval of the authorized officer.	Same as Class M. In addition, the vehicle open areas are available for unrestricted vehicle access (see Recreation Element).
		Vehicle use on some major dunes and dry lakebeds may be allowed (see Motorized-Vehicle Access Element).		
		Periodic or seasonal closure of routes of travel may be required.		
	Compliance with Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 as applied to motorized-vehicle access will be assured.			
Railroads	No new railroads and trams will be allowed. Existing railroads and trams may be operated and maintained subject to non-impairment of wilderness values.	Railroads and trams may be allowed to serve authorized uses if no other viable alternative is possible.	Railroads and trams may be allowed.	
Aircraft	Aircraft facilities are not allowed.	Temporary landing strips may be allowed by permit.	Airports and landing strips may be allowed by lease subject to conformance with county or regional airport plans and FAA and DOD approval.	
15. RECREATION	This class is suitable for nonmechanical types of recreational experience which generally involve low to very low user densities. Recreational opportunities provided include, but	This class is suitable for recreation which generally involves low to moderate user densities. Recreation opportunities include those permitted in Class C plus:	This class is suitable for a wide range of recreation activities which may involve moderate to high user densities. Recreational opportunities include those permitted in Class	This class is suitable for recreation activities which generally involve high user densities. A wide array of recreational opportunities will be found in this class. Off-road-vehicle play will be allowed where appro-

Distribution Facilities	New licenses or rights-of-way for distribution facilities to serve private properties will not be granted. Existing facilities may be maintained or improved but not expanded.	Existing facilities may be mainfained and upgraded or improved in accordance with exisfing right-of-way grants.			
		New distribution systems may be allowed and will be placed underground where feasible except where this would have a more detrimental effect on the environment than surface alignment. In addition, new disfribution facilities shall be placed within existing rights-of-way where they ere reasonably available.	New distribution facilities may be allowed and shall be placed within existing rights-of-way where they are reasonably available. NEPA requirements will be met.		
8. COMMUNICATION SITES	New communication sites are not allowed unless required for protection of wilderness values or visitors.	New communication sites may be allowed in designated areas (see map in Utility Element). EA required.	New sites may be allowed. NEPA requirements will be met.		
	Maintenance and operation of existing sites and facilities may be allowed subject fo Wilderness Management Plan.	Existing facilities may be mainfained and utilized in accordance with right-of-way grants and applicable regulations.			
9. FIRE MANAGEMENT	Fire suppression measures will be taken in accordance with specific wilderness fire management plans fo be followed by the authorized officer, and may include use of motorized vehicles, aircraft, and fire retardant chemicals.	Fire suppression measures will be taken in accordance with specific fire management plans subject to such conditions as the authorized officer deems necessary, such as use of motorized vehicles, aircraft, and fire retardant chemicals.			
10. VEGETATION Harvesting (Native Plant)	Removal of vegetation, non-commercial, may be allowed by permit only after an EA or EIS is prepared and after development of necessary stipulations.	Removal of vegetation, commercial or non-commercial, may be allowed by permit only after NEPA requirements have been met and after development of necessary stipulations.			
Harvesting by Mechanical Equipment	Not allowed.	Harvesting by mechanical equipment may be allowed by permit only.			
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species, State and Federal	All state and federally listed species will be fully protected. Actions which may jeopardize fhe continued existence of federally listed species will require consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.				
Sensitive Plant Species (Including candidates for listing by FWS; FWS Species ot Concern; Species on List 2, CNPS, 1980)	Identified sensitive species will be given protection in management decisions consistent with wilderness values and BLM policies.	Identified species will be given protection in management decisions consistent with BLM policies.			
Unusual Plant Assemblages (UPAs)	Identified UPAs will be given protecfion in mangement decisions consistent with wilderness values and BLM policies.	Identified UPAs will be considered when conducfing all site-specific environmenfal impact analyses to minimize impact. See also Wetland/Riparian Areas guidelines.			
Vegetation Manipulation 1. Mechanical Control	Mechanical control will not be allowed.	Mechanical control may be allowed, but only affer consideration of possible impacts.			
2. Chemical Control	Aerial broadcast application of chemical controls will not be allowed.				
	Spot application will not be allowed.	Noxious weed eradicafion may be allowed after site-specific planning. Types and uses of pesticides, in particular herbicides, must conform to Federal, State, and locel regulations (see Vegefation Element).	Spot applications will be allowed after site-specific planning. Types and uses of pesficides, in particular herbicides, must conform to Federal, State, and local regulations (see Vegefation Element).		
3. Exclosures	Exclosures will not be allowed.	Exclosures may be allowed.			
4. Prescribed Burning	Prescribed burning will nof be allowed.	Prescribed burning may be allowed after development of a site-specific management plan.			
11. LAND-TENURE ADJUSTMENT	Lends will be acquired, disposed of, or exchanged in accordance with FLPMA and other applicable Federal laws end regulafions, to assure more efficient menagement of fhe public lands and to reduce conflicts wifh other public and private landowners fo provide more consistency and logic in desert-wide land-use patterns.				
12. LIVESTOCK GRAZING	Grazing will be allowed subject to limitations to preserve wilderness characteristics and the protection of sensitive resources, except that existing grazing will only be subject fo the protection of sensitive resources.	Grazing will be allowed subject fo the protection of sensitive resources.			
	Major support facilities, such as permanent corrals, loading chutes, and significant water development, will not be allowed except for existing facilities pursuant to valid existing leases, licenses, and permits. Maintenance of such facilities will be controlled to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of wilderness values.	Support facilities such as corrals, loading chutes, water developments, and other facilities, permanent or temporary, may be allowed consistent with protection of sensitive resources.	Support facilities such as corrals, loading chutes, water developments, and other facilities, permanent or temporary, will be allowed.		

		where the EA indicates a significant level of adverse impacts, an EIS shall be required.			
		Continued use of existing areas of sand and gravel extractions is allowed subject to BLM permits, es specified in 43 CFR 3600.			
14. MOTORIZED-VEHICLE ACCESS/ TRANSPORTATION	Motorized-vehicle use is generally not allowed unless provided for in individual wilderness legislation and management plans or if necessary to serve valid existing rights, and for emergency use for public safety, or protection of wilderness values.	New roads and ways may be developed under right-of-way grants or pursuant to regulations or approved plans of operation. Motorized-vehicle use is allowed on approved routes of travel. This means that existing routes of travel are closed unless specifically designated open.	Motorized-vehicle use will be allowed on existing routes of travel unless designated closed by the authorized officer. New routes may be allowed upon approval of the authorized officer.	Same as Class M. In addition, the vehicle open areas are available for unrestricted vehicle access (see Recreation Element).	
		Vehicle use on some major dunes and dry lakebeds may be allowed (see Motorized-Vehicle Access Element).			
		Periodic or seasonal closure of routes of travel may be required.			
	Compliance with Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 as applied fo motorized-vehicle access will be assured.				
Railroads	No new railroads and trams will be allowed. Existing railroads and trams may be operated and mainfained subject fo non-impairment of wilderness values.	Railroads and frams may be allowed to serve authorized uses if no other viable alternative is possible.	Railroads and frams may be allowed.		
Aircraft	Aircraft facilities are not allowed.	Temporary landing strips may be allowed by permit.	Airports and landing strips may be allowed by lease subject to conformance with county or regional airport plans and FAA and DOD approvel.		
15. RECREATION	This class is suitable for nonmechanical types of recreational experience which generally involve low to very low user densities. Recreational opportunities provided include, but are not limifed to, fhe following characteristic activities: backpacking primitive, unimproved site camping hiking horseback riding nature study and observation photography and painfing rockclimbing spelunking hunting rockhounding	This class is suitable for recreation which generally involves low to moderate user densities. Recreation opportunities include those permitted in Class C plus: —land-sailing on dry lakes —non-competitive vehicle touring and events only on "approved" routes of travel. All organized vehicle events, competitive or not, require a permit specifying fhe conditions of use; these conditions will include, but are not limited to: —approved routes —no pitting, start, finish, or specfa-lor areas.	This class is suitable for a wide range of recreation activities which may involve moderate to high user densities. Recreational opportunities include those permitted in Class L. Competitive motorized vehicle events are limited to "existing" routes of travel and must be approved by the authorized officer. Pit, start, and finish areas must be designated by fhe authorized officer. All competifive events and organized events having 50 or more vehicles require permits.	This class is suitable for recreation activities which generally involve high user densities. A wide array of recreetional opportunities will be found in this class. Off-road-vehicle play will be allowed where approved in open areas. Uses permitted are the same es Class M; in addition, motorized-vehicle play is allowed in areas designated "open". All aspects of competitive events will be permitfed except where specific mitigations are stipulated by the authorized officer.
	Permanent or temporary facilities for resource protection and public health and safety may be allowed at the discrefion of fhe authorized officer or in accordance with approved Wilderness Management Plans.	Permanent or temporary facilities for resource protection and public health and safety are allowed.			
	Trails are open for non-vehicular use and new trails for non-motorized access may be allowed.				
16. WASTE DISPOSAL	Waste disposal sites will not be allowed in this class.	Hazardous waste disposal sites will not be allowed. New non-hazardous waste disposal sites will not be allowed.	Public lands managed by BLM may not be used for hazardous waste disposal. Where locations suifable for such disposal are found on BLM-menaged lands, consideration will be given to transfer ot such sites to other ownership for this use. Non-hazardous waste disposal sites may be allowed.		
17. WILDLIFE SPECIES AND HABITAT Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species (both State and Federal)	All State and federally listed species and their critical habitat will be fully protected. Actions which may affect or jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed species will require formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.				
Sensitive Species	Identified sensitive species will be given protection in management decisions consistent with wilderness values and BLM policies.	Identified species will be given protection in management decisions consisfent with BLM policies.			
Predator and Pest Control	Predator and pest control will not be allowed except to alleviate public healfh hazards or to protect endangered species.	Control of depredating wildlife and pests will be allowed in accordance with existing State and Federal laws.			
Habitat Manipulation	Projects to improve wildlife habitat may be allowed subject to environmental assessmenf.		Same as Classes C and L, excepf that chemical and mechanical vegefation manipulation may be allowed.		
Reintroduction or Introduction ot Established Exotic Species	Reintroduction of native species is allowed.	Reintroduction or introduction of native species or esfablished exotic species is allowed.			
18. WETLAND/ RIPARIAN AREAS	Wetland/riparian areas will be considered in all proposed land-use actions. Steps will be taken to provide that these unique characteristics and ecological requirements are managed in accordance with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands (2 CFR 26951), legislative and Secretarial direction, and BLM Manual 6740, "Wetland-Riparian Area Protection and Management" (10/1/79), as outlined in the Vegefation Element.				
19. WILO HORSES AND BURROS	Populations of wild and free-roaming horses and burros will be mainfained in accordance with the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 buf will be subject to controls to protect sensitive resources as provided for in management plans for wilderness areas. (See Wild Horse and Burro Elemenf.)	Populations of wild and free-roaming horses and burros will be mainfained in healthy, stable herds, in accordance with fhe Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 but will be subject to controls to protect sensitive resources. (See Wild Horse and Burro Elemenf.)			


BLM AREA OFFICES
OREGON
PACIFIC
OCEAN
NEVADA
ARIZONA
MEXICO
Sacramento
San Francisco
Bakersfield
Los Angeles
Riverside
San Diego
A
Ridgecrest Resource Area Office
Bureau of Land Management
1415 Norma — P.O. Box 219
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Telephone: (714) 446-4526
B
Barstow Resource Area Office
Bureau of Land Management
831 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311
Telephone: (714) 256-3591
C
Indio Resource Area Office
Bureau of Land Management
3623 — No. 101 Canyon Crest Drive
Riverside, CA 92507
Telephone: (714) 787-1630
D
Needles Resource Area Office
Bureau of Land Management
121 "F" Street, Suite 2
P.O. Box 305 — Needles, CA 92363
Telephone: (714) 326-3896
E
El Centro Resource Office
Bureau of Land Management
333 S. Waterman Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243
Telephone: (714) 352-5842
CALIFORNIA
DESERT
CONSERVATION
AREA
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE
Bureau of Land Management
Federal Office Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2841
Sacramento, CA 95825
Telephone: (916) 484-4724
CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507
Telephone: (714) 787-1462